



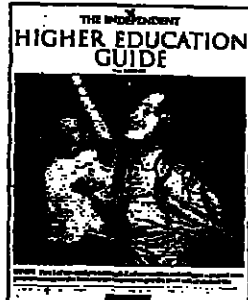
THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 24 October 1997

(R50p) 45p No 3,436

INSIDE TODAY

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES GUIDE



Our first supplement on all of Britain's universities

THE EYE



Film: The Trainspotter boys go heavenly

Pop: The best album ever made

TODAY'S NEWS

Over-educated? Or happy in your work?

Some employers are wary of college graduates who are "over-qualified" and "over-educated"; but they shouldn't be, because not all graduates are high-fliers, the personnel managers' annual conference heard yesterday. The conference was also told that most employees are happy with their workplace and the way they are managed – and that trade unions are re-inventing themselves as providers of welfare services to their members. Page 10

Donnygate

A Blair family friend has admitted authorship of pamphlets which have become the subject of a legal battle with Kevin Hughes, MP for Doncaster and a junior Labour whip. Page 7

Climate pressure

Environmentalists believe that pressure from Tony Blair and Helmut Kohl is the best hope for persuading Bill Clinton, the American president to toughen his country's stance on pollution before the Kyoto global warming summit. Page 5

Square Britannia?

Tony Blair may not be so cool after all. We have evidence that he enjoys the music of the man who wrote "Una Paloma Blanca". Page 3

SEEN & HEARD

A transsexual confused London police so much that they asked a court to rule on whether 'he' should be a 'she' when arrested for trying to pick up men in the street. Jason "Jackie" McAuliffe, 27, told Marylebone magistrates yesterday that vice squad officers wanted the court to tell them how she should be charged – as a man or a woman. She won when the Crown Prosecution Service agreed to drop charges alleging that she is "a man". Her success was short-lived – she left the court £60 poorer having been found guilty of impersonating in Bayswater.

WEATHER The Eye, page 26
TELEVISION The Eye, page 28
CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 25

Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>



Louise Woodward, the British nanny, testifying at her trial in Massachusetts for murder Photograph: Ted Fitzgerald/Reuters

Teenage innocent or a killer? Woodward speaks

BY DAVID USBORNE

So what is the image that fits Louise Woodward? A nanny so frustrated with her lot that she was driven to commit murder or a hapless teenager who became enmeshed in a tragic train of events? Yesterday, at last, she took the stand.

The thing that almost never happens in American murder trials finally happened yesterday: Louise Woodward, the teenage Briton facing charges of infanticide, went into the box.

Under questioning by her lawyer, Andrew Good, she began with this, unwavering denial: Matthew Eappen, the boy who had been in her care from November last year until last February and whom she is accused of killing, suffered no physical violence from her, no kicking, no hitting, no slamming of his head.

With almost no preamble or warning, Mr Good asked: "Miss Woodward, did you ever shake Matthew Eappen violently?" Her answer: "No". "Did you ever hit Matthew?" "No". "Did you ever slam Matthew about the head?" "No". "Did you ever slam him at all?" "No". "Did you do anything to hurt Matthew Eappen?" "Never".

The sense of anticipation in court was most palpable as she described the moment she found Matthew lying in his crib on the afternoon of 4 February in a state of obvious physical distress. "He seemed off-colour," the defendant began. "His eyes were half-closed, he wasn't breathing properly, he was gasping. I tried to help him myself. I tried to give him CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation], then I called 911 [the emergency services]."

The prosecution alleges that, in a fit of anger with a child that was fretful, Ms Woodward took Matthew, and fatally assaulted him by shaking him violently and hitting his head against a hard object.

When Ms Woodward came to describe in detail the events of 4 February she sobbed as she told the jury how the baby had been distressed and crying. After giving

him a bath she had laid him in his cot while she washed her hands. When she returned he was silent and looked blue in colour. She tried to revive him and he vomited slightly but it soon became apparent that he had died.

Asked to describe the moments when Matthew showed the first symptoms of his collapse, Ms Woodward's demeanour transformed as she began to cry and choke on her words.

"I was very frightened, I panicked, I laid him down ... I put my fingers in his mouth ... I felt inside his mouth and there was nothing there. I tilted his head back ... I tried to breathe for him," she said.

She went on to describe sitting on a bed with the distressed child: "I put him away from me, his head lolled back and I could see that something was really wrong. I really, really panicked and I lay him on the bed and I started screaming his name and I was clapping around his head."

Before being granted a five-minute break to recompose herself, Louise described being unable to get through on the telephone to either of the boy's parents and

eventually calling the emergency services.

The defence, which was expected to rest when Ms Woodward leaves the stand, has argued, with the help of several medical experts, that the child had a previous head injury that had remained undetected until re-bleeding occurred from a blood clot that triggered his sudden neurological collapse and eventual death.

Mr Good elicited a picture from Ms Woodward of an experience with two successive families in America, initially with Komishane family and, from November, the Eappens, that was mostly happy and loving with only one issue straining relations in both homes – Ms Woodward's unwillingness to submit to a nightly curfew set by the parents.

The astonishment, at least in the American legal community, that greeted Mr Good's pledge at the very outset of the trial to bring the defendant to the stand arises from the risk she will be running once direct examination is over and the lecture is passed to the prosecution.

Above all, the prosecution, which has maintained an aggressive style with all the defence witnesses, is sure to zero in on apparent inconsistencies in statements made by the accused first to the baby's mother, Deborah Eappen, and to the police at the time of the arrest.

While she apparently told Mrs Eappen that she did nothing to shake or harm the boy's head, the police have said that she admitted to a mild shaking of the boy and to allowing his head perhaps to drop a few inches on to the bathroom floor.

Testifying about the curfew that the Eappen family attempted to impose on her, Ms Woodward highlighted what was apparently a problem of cultural differences between practices in Britain and the US.

She said she told Mr Eappen she did not want a curfew, "because I had never had one ever in England, I simply wasn't used to having one and I could take on the responsibility of deciding when I should be coming home and when I should be going to bed".

The trial continues on Monday when Ms Woodward will be cross-examined by the prosecution.

COURT EXCHANGE

With almost no preamble or warning, Mr Good asked outright: "Miss Woodward, did you ever shake Matthew Eappen violently?" Her answer: "No". "Did you ever hit Matthew?" "No". "Did you ever slam Matthew about the head?" "No". "Did you ever slam him at all?" "No". "Did you do anything to hurt Matthew Eappen?" "Never".

World holds its breath as shares crash

A catastrophic drop in shares in Hong Kong yesterday kicked off a frantic 24 hours in the world's stockmarkets, although the fall-out in other financial centres was not as severe as it might have been.

While Hong Kong shares shed a tenth of their value, the Hang Seng index falling by a record number of points, London's stock market declined more modestly.

The gambling-crazy inhabitants of Hong Kong continually checked the latest share prices on their pagers, but the streets of the City of London were calm and sedate.

At one stage during the day the FTSE100 index had shed 222 points. It ended 157 points lower at 4,991.5, the biggest fall in numbers of points since 1987 and the largest drop in relative terms since the 1992 exchange rate crisis.

Is this the long-feared latter-day Great Crash? There were sighs of relief when yesterday turned out not to be a "Black Thursday". But today will be another tense day because many investors think shares have risen crazily out of line with the true value of the businesses they are in.

If they are right, a crash is inevitable. When it happens it will cut millions of people's pensions and could plunge the US and British economies into recession.

The anniversary of the October 1987 crash has kept the more superstitious traders on edge all week.

The Government's disastrous muddle over Ecu at the weekend and the launch of a new trading system on the

stock exchange on Monday did not improve anybody's mood.

Luckily, the opening plunge on Wall Street was partly reversed before London closed, although it gathered steam later.

A full-blown crisis was averted yesterday with investors in popular shares, such as the Halifax, British Gas and BT making modest paper losses.

But more important investments most people make through pension funds and insurance policies will be fairly much unscathed by one day's share price falls.

These will start to matter only if yesterday's decline in the US Dow Jones index spreads the contagion back to Hong Kong and around the globe again today.

Some financial commentators believe the South East Asian crisis that led to the collapse in Hong Kong's shares yesterday could be the catalyst for a crash poised to happen.

Shares traded on Wall Street are worth a third more than 12 months ago, when the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, was already critical of the stockmarket's "irrational exuberance".

Andrew Smithers, an investment adviser, said: "Wall Street is more overvalued than it was in 1929." It is little comfort that bears like him wrongly have been predicting a full-blown crash for a year if this time they are right.

— Diane Coyle, Economics Editor
Business, page 23
Outlook, page 25

How to become a Freelance Writer

by NICK DAVIS

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains, "If you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training."

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fiction and non-fiction writing. The 140,000 word course is written by professional writers and has been acclaimed by experts.

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COLUMN ONE

And all because les femmes hate Milk Tray

He may be suave, mysterious and acrobatic, but if the Milk Tray man wants to plant his nut clusters in the boudoirs of Europe his calling card will have to be stamped with the words: "Chocolate made with 5 per cent vegetable fat."

Yesterday, it finally became clear why he has to dive from 200ft high cliffs in order to sneak boxes of choos on board Mediterranean yachts after dark: because Euro-legislators have banned his goodies from the continent.

To the astonishment of British politicians – and the wicked delight of rabid Eurosceptics such as Teresa Gorman and Teddy Taylor – French, Dutch and Belgian MEPs joined forces to ban the term "milk chocolate" to describe chocolate made by the traditional British and Irish method.

Chocolate made in Britain and Ireland has been banned in Europe since 1973 because it contains 5 per cent vegetable fat. The vegetable fat is not included to make the product more cheaply, but to enhance texture and to make it shiny.

However, its inclusion has resulted in other European countries – who make their chocolate only with cocoa butter – calling British and Irish chocolate inferior and impure. The European Commission, aware that companies like Cadbury and Nestlé were excluded from huge markets, proposed allowing exports as long as they were clearly marked "contains up to 5 per cent vegetable fat".

Unfortunately, the proposal was hijacked by foreign Euro MPs who voted 306-112 to wipe out an earlier exception allowing the manufacturers to call their products "milk chocolate" in their home markets. If ratified, their decision means the expression "milk chocolate" can no longer be used

– and an alternative description has not been found. "Milk Chocolate made with a high milk content" appears to be the favourite.

If they want to get on to European shelves, the companies will have to mark their bars clearly on the front, although brand names like "Cadbury's Dairy Milk" and "Milk Tray" are unlikely to be affected.

Teresa Gorman took the opportunity to spread the anti-European gospel. "It makes Willy Wonka and his chocolate factory look positively sane," she said. "God knows why we belong to this ridiculous organisation – the idea that it's a free market is ridiculous. It's one of the biggest protectionist markets ever devised and we are crazy to think it's an advantage." So, too, did Teddy Taylor. It was the "most outrageous example of European interference we have ever had", he said.

For the British chocolate manufacturers, who churn out 500,000 tonnes a year, a change that should have been sweet has left a bitter taste. "We wouldn't be able to call what we've been making for 100 years milk chocolate," said Richard Frost, spokesman for Cadbury. "It's disproportionate – we're talking about an ingredient that makes up 5 per cent of the product." In truth, however, any such ruling wouldn't be all bad. The manufacturers would get access to hundreds of millions of potential new customers all over Europe. And the proposals have to be approved by the Council of Ministers, the Commission and a full majority of MEPs. So there's plenty of time for a fudge.

— Steve Boggan

PEOPLE



Cherie Booth describes life in bed with Tony

Margaret Thatcher's habit of rising early in the morning was legendary. However, it seems that Tony Blair lingers a little longer in the comfort of his bed – at least according to his wife.

Writing "exclusively" for a Government publication, Cherie Booth QC reveals how her day begins between 6.45am and 7am when daughter Kathryn dives into their bed, closely followed by son Nicky.

It is only then, at an hour by which Mrs Thatcher would have carried out one privatisation and drawn up plans for another, that Ms Booth and partner stir from the bed. In the *Government Legal Services Journal* she writes: "We then get up and oversee the children's breakfast and departure for school".

But lest the nation gained the impression that Tony Blair lays abed while his fellow citizens are leaving for work, Downing Street insisted yesterday that despite the impression given by his wife, the Prime Minister was often up well before this hour. "He is usually up before Mrs Blair," said a source. "Partly out of natural inclination, partly because of work."

The bedchamber information comes in a first person article in the *Journal* entitled "A Day in the Life

of Cherie Booth QC". Ms Booth describes how, at her Chambers in central London, she and fellow barristers have a "lively debate" about the news and that "I often get my leg pulled about my latest photograph".

Despite her enormous pressure of work combining the "variety of a barrister's life with being the wife of the Prime Minister", she still manages time to visit a gym two or three times a week. And life still revolves around her family. Ms Booth says she likes to spend her early evenings helping the children with their homework before putting them to bed.

Later though, it can be a more solitary life for Britain's First Lady. "After dinner when Tony is working on his boxes, I will either read my briefs or catch up in the post."

Life in SW1 rather than in their former North London home does have some advantages, at least in the mornings. "I am usually last to leave the house," she explains. "But since Downing Street is so near to the Inns of Court I actually arrive in Chambers earlier than I did when we lived in Islington."

— Michael Streeter

Six strippers overtake *Four Weddings*

A left-wing Glaswegian ex-painter and decorator is set to overtake a floppy-fringed, upper-class English pop as the most popular British movie star in UK cinema history.

Robert Carlyle, right, has powered *The Full Monty* to the point of overtaking Hugh Grant's *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, as the biggest earning British-produced movie ever made.

The story of unemployed Sheffield steelworkers who turn to stripping in front of women for money and self-esteem has earned £26.8m since its release eight weeks ago. This weekend, it is expected to overtake *Four Weddings* which took £27.8m in 22 weeks on release.

In the United States, *The Full Monty* is still trailing the Hugh Grant love story which had transatlantic appeal thanks to the presence of Andie McDowell, but has taken £16m in 10 weeks



on release in just 634 screens. Its success in America has largely been due to word-of-mouth recommendations because the film has had little marketing support. *Four Weddings and a Funeral* took over £100m at box offices worldwide for its makers Channel 4. It also earned the channel lucrative revenues from video sales and advertising sales when it was broadcast last autumn.

Carlyle has been tipped for Hollywood, but the one-time trade union activist has so far eschewed the temptations of Los Angeles, preferring Glasgow and gritty roles.

More delay for McAliskey

Extradition proceedings against IRA suspect Robin McAliskey were adjourned for a third time yesterday by a magistrate because she was still too ill to attend court.

The stipendiary magistrate, Nicholas Evans, sitting at London's Bow Street Magistrates' Court, refused an application to continue the extradition proceedings at a London psychiatric hospital where McAliskey, who is suffering from a mental illness, is a patient.

Ms McAliskey, 25, is wanted by the German authorities in connection with a mortar bomb attack on a British Army barracks in Osnabrück last summer.

McAliskey, daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey, is currently in a secure mother and baby unit suffering from post natal depression following the birth of her daughter in May. Miss Arvinder Sambe, appearing on behalf of the German government, told the magistrate today that McAliskey was "unwell and unable to attend".

UPDATE

HEALTH

Women facing coronary epidemic

Heart disease, traditionally the great leveller of middle-aged men, is on course to become an epidemic in older women, it was claimed yesterday. More women than men already die from heart attacks in hospital, according to one recent international study. And in the United States, the number of women who die from coronary heart disease each year outnumbers men.

Professor Nanette Wenger, from the Emory University School of Medicine, in Atlanta, Georgia, warned of an explosion of heart disease in women unless preventative measures were taken.

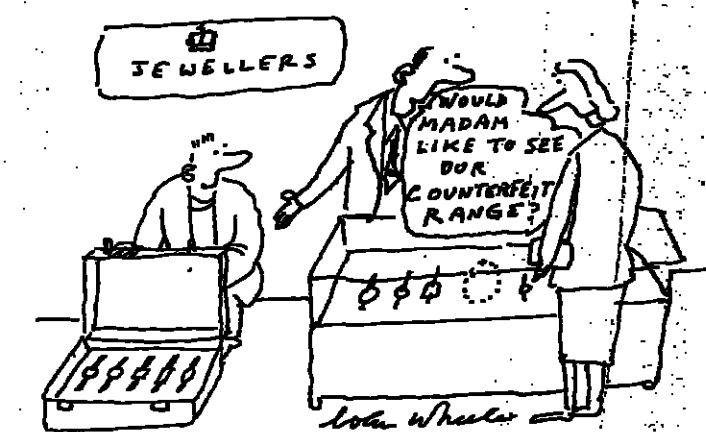
Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, she said: "A white post-menopausal woman in the United States is 10 times more likely to die of heart disease than of breast cancer. But most women do not understand the coronary threat. Studies show that women do not usually list heart disease among the health problems they consider most important." In the UK, about 150 women per 10,000 die each year from heart disease compared with around 300 men.

SHOPPING

Public happy with pirate goods

Despite recent safety scares surrounding fake car components and children's goods, 40 per cent of the buying public will knowingly purchase counterfeit products, according to a survey previewed yesterday. The survey also found two thirds are unaware that the profits from counterfeiting fund organised crime.

The MORI report, *Public Attitudes to Counterfeiting*, was commissioned by the Anti-Counterfeiting Group and was previewed at their conference in York yesterday. It reveals the public's ambivalent attitude towards product counterfeiting. Key findings include that one in six of the buying public are not aware of counterfeit products, and 29 per cent would do nothing if they discovered they had purchased a fake. Those groups most likely to knowingly buy counterfeit goods are men and 15-24 year olds.



HOUSING

Buyers in dark about contamination

The majority of potential homeowners are being kept in the dark about whether the home they plan to buy is built on land that was once contaminated by industrial activity, according to a report out today. Private builders, estate agents and housing associations rarely include information in their sales particulars and documents about the past contamination of land, even when such problems have been successfully treated.

The research, carried out by Dr Paul Syms of Sheffield Hallam University, also found that a lack of clarity in the relationship between planners, environmental health officers and central government led to confusion over the handling of planning applications for developing contaminated sites because no single body is responsible for making sure they have been made safe for development.

— Amanda Kelly

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.21	Italy (lira)	2,773
Austria (schillings)	19.87	Japan (yen)	194.77
Belgium (francs)	56.36	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.21	Netherlands (guilders)	3.18
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	11.55
Denmark (kroner)	10.83	Portugal (escudos)	286.09
France (francs)	9.49	Spain (pesetas)	238.48
Germany (marks)	2.84	Sweden (kroner)	12.29
Greece (drachme)	446.36	Switzerland (francs)	2.36
Hong Kong (\$)	12.26	Turkey (lira)	284,492
Ireland (punts)	1.08	USA (\$)	1.59

Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

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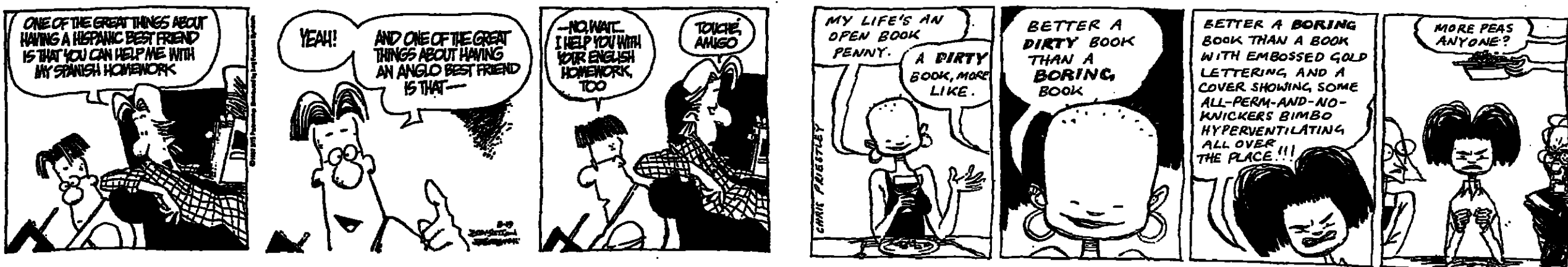
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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



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Supermarket leads crusade over designer pricing

Tesco has lodged a complaint against two designer clothes firms over alleged price fixing. The goal is cheaper brand-name clothes. Michael Streeter reveals that the company has more top names in its sights.

Not content with becoming Britain's most successful supermarket, Tesco is conducting a crusade against some of the

biggest names in world fashion. Yesterday, the company announced that it is lodging a formal complaint at the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) against Calvin Klein and Levi Strauss UK, alleging "anti-competitive trade practices".

At the same time, its stores started selling £5.5m of Calvin Klein jeans, underwear and sweatshirts and bottles of CK One scent, some of it 50 per cent cheaper than in other stores.

Sources, meanwhile, said Tesco was planning to take on yet more top-name labels in the

near future as part of its rolling campaign. "We know who the next targets are but we don't want to reveal their names and give them time to prepare their defence," said one source.

The issues surrounding Tesco's campaign, which previously involved a clash with Adidas, the sportswear firm, are complex but essentially come down to the ability of a retailer to sell what it wants, at the price it wants.

Big-name labels like CK refuse to let Tesco and other supermarkets such as Safeway sell

their goods because they claim the stores do not have the right image for their upmarket products. The supermarkets retort that the designer firms simply want to control the artificially high price of their goods to boost their profits.

The differences in price can be stark. Tesco claim that, for example, CK boxer shorts selling for \$18.00 (£11.00) in the United States are sold for £19 here. The store is selling them for nearly half the price - £10 - with stocks bought legally on the "grey market" in the US

and continental Europe to avoid official supply routes.

Nigel Griffiths, consumer affairs minister, yesterday encouraged other supermarkets to challenge the high prices of the designer clothes, and is holding meetings with stores to bring prices down before Christmas. "I applaud UK retailers taking on foreign suppliers who are overcharging British consumers," he said.

John Gildersleeve, Tesco director, said: "We are concerned that our customers are denied a range of branded

products at fair prices. Why should they pay almost twice as much for clothes like Levi's, Adidas and Calvin Klein as shoppers in the US and elsewhere in the world? We hope the OFT will agree that the time has come for change."

The OFT can seek a court order if it finds that companies are using anti-competition practices to control prices, though such actions are rare.

Other British stores are waiting to see the outcome of the OFT referral, but some have also begun to discount de-

signer products. Last week Safeway stocked a selection of Calvin Klein children's wear, bought in the US, at discount prices. Some shops were sold out by Monday lunchtime.

The accusations of price fixing were dismissed by Levi Strauss yesterday. Mark Elliott, UK spokesman, said they did not set prices for shops. "That is up to the retailers."

There was no initial response from Calvin Klein. A spokeswoman in Milan said: "We are awaiting reaction from head office".

IN
TOMORROW'S
INDEPENDENT

SPORT

Schumacher v Villeneuve: fear and loathing or a fair contest?

MAGAZINE



The greatest modern buildings in the world

TRAVEL

The great race: Plane v Eurostar which gets you to Paris faster?

Blair goes loop di love over King

The Independent reveals the most damaging leak yet to hit the Blair government. It will severely dent the Prime Minister's credibility in trying to relaunch the nation as "cool Britannia". Ian Burrell reveals that Tony Blair is a secret fan of Jonathan King, the man who brought the world "Una Paloma Blanca".

He might get Noel Gallagher to come round for a glass of wine, but Tony Blair's musical tastes may not be quite so cool. Those who had seen pictures of his university band Ugly Rumours had long suspected as much. But Jonathan King?

That's right, the man behind such tunes as "Una Paloma Blanca", "Loop Di Love" and "Chick-A-Boom". The same Jonathan King whose admiration of Margaret Thatcher prompted him to record "I Can't Let Maggie Go" when she was ousted from Mr Blair's current residence in 1990.

Next week, the pop pundit is to be honoured as "Man of the Year" by the British Phonographic Industry, the umbrella organisation representing the music business.

Through his understanding of, and enthusiasm for great music, Jonathan has undoubtedly brought the best of our industry into the hearts of millions of people," the BPI bizarrely claims.

The choice has attracted considerable murmurings of disapproval, not surprising in view of Mr King's deliberate cultivation of an image as "the man they love to hate" in British music. But the Prime Minister is not among the critics. He has written to King to congratulate him.

Mr Blair gushes: "You have made an important contribution to one of this country's great success stories and this award is very well deserved." Mr Blair signs off his letter in appropriately popastic language: "I look forward to your continuing determination to ensure that Great Britain means Great Music."

Alas for Mr Blair, it appears that his admiration for King is not reciprocated. Told that he was to receive a message from the Prime Minister, King was clearly surprised.

"If he says 'I have smashed up my copy of Una Paloma Blanca and you are a man of no talent and even less charisma', then I would think: 'Thank heavens we have someone who speaks his mind'," said the pundit.

"If he says 'We consider you to be a great ambassador for the industry', then I shall be sneaking off to the toilets to be sick."



Wildlife awards: Anup Shah's langur monkeys won an animal behaviour category while Tero Niem's portrait of a great grey owl was highly commended

Winners on the wild side

Three young langur monkeys at play beneath a banyan tree; a magical image from a British photographer which won a category in this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.

Anup Shah, from Hertfordshire, caught the monkeys frolicking in Ranthambore National Park in India. The shot won the Animal Behaviour: Mammals category in the prestigious award.

Anup Shah said of the award-winning picture: "A troop of langur monkeys often gather on and around the tree, as in this scene. Sometimes the youngsters devised games on the spur of the moment, like jumping to catch leaves."

The great grey owl was captured by Swedish photographer Tero Niem and was highly commended in the Animal Portraits category.

Another Briton, 16-year-old Rebecca Dean of Surrey, won the title of Young Photographer of the Year for her picture of a red-winged parrot in the Northern Territory of Australia.

Most winners of categories in previous years have been from abroad. As usual, the photographs this year were of a high quality and an exhibition of the best images will be open at the Natural History Museum in Kensington, west London, from tomorrow until Saturday 28 February 1998.



Or false.

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

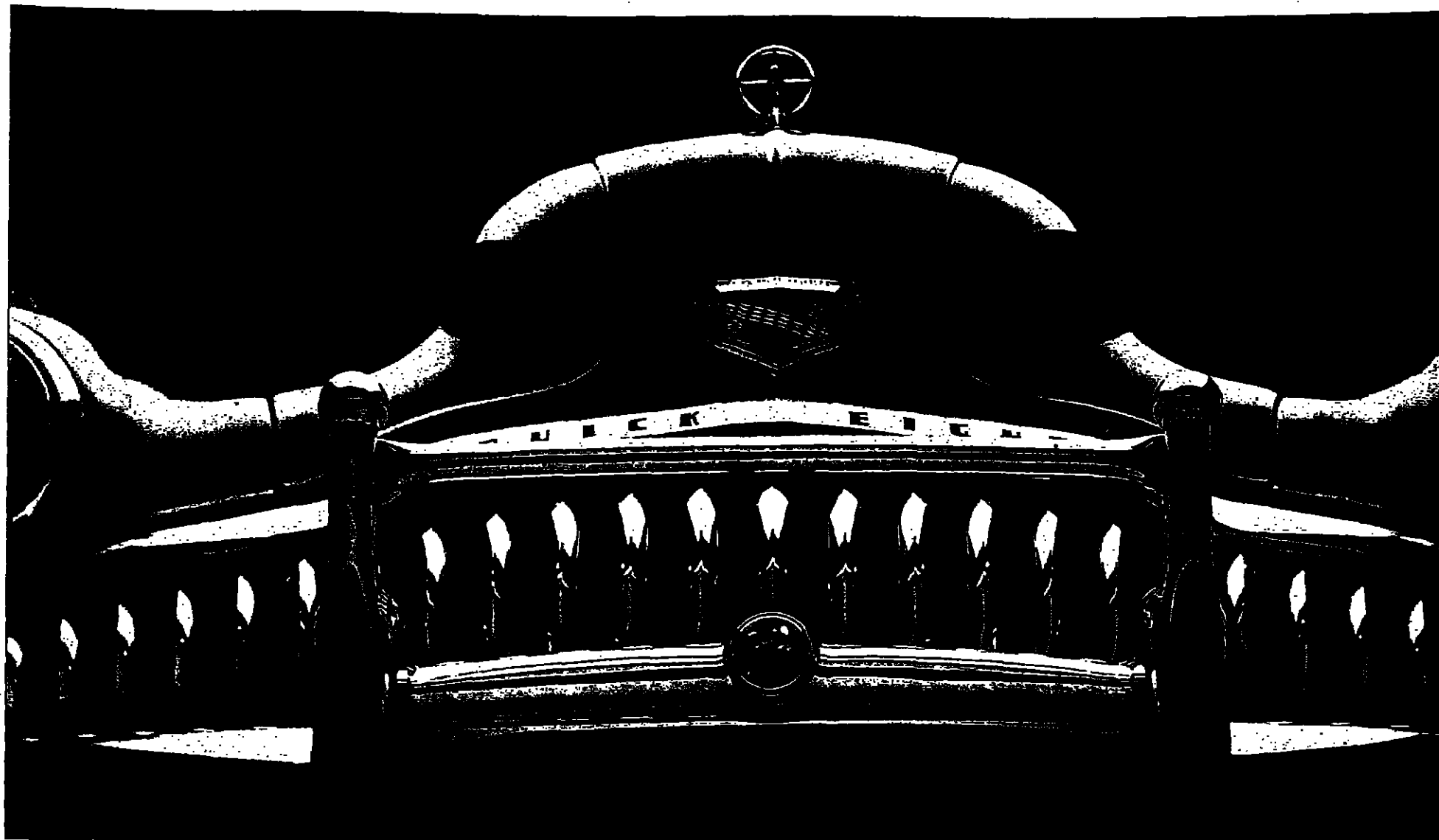
—Lucy Wong

[illegible]

"The key issue is childcare. Currently there is not enough to go round and what there is is too expensive. If lone parents are to be able to work, the promised national childcare strategy must deliver affordable childcare in local communities."

هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Clinton under pressure over modest proposals



In great demand: Gas-guzzling pickup trucks and off-the-road vehicles sell like hot cakes to your average all-American family

Photograph: Robert Harding

Tony Blair and Helmut Kohl are the last, best hope for persuading President Bill Clinton to do more to tackle the climate change threat. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, finds other nations highly critical of the White House's too modest proposals.

John Gummer, the former secretary of state for the environment, and Greenpeace's chief global warming campaigner, Bill

Hare, were in complete agreement yesterday. They said Germany's Chancellor and Britain's Prime Minister were the best hope for getting the necessary commitments for action out of the global warming talks in Japan in December.

Both called on the two leaders to bring the maximum possible pressure to bear on President Bill Clinton in the remaining six weeks. Tony Blair has already asked the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott to tour several countries which are key players, including the United States and Japan, before the climate summit in Kyoto to try to forge a consensus for stronger action.

The European Union says the devel-

oped nations must commit themselves to a 15 per cent cut in annual emissions of "greenhouse gases" by 2010, compared to their 1990 level. But this week, as the last set of preparatory talks began in Bonn, the White House said it advocated that emissions from the developed world should be stabilised at their 1990 level by between 2008 and 2012.

Environmentalists and the European Union say this is far too modest a response to the threat of catastrophic changes in climate and rises in sea levels. But yesterday there was a counter-attack from industry, which claimed curbs on the fossil fuels which cause global warming would harm

economies and cost jobs. Germany, Britain and Japan all expressed disappointment at the President's proposals. France's environment minister, Dominique Voynet, said they were "minimalist and insufficient". But Australia, the world's leading coal exporter, said it was pleased President Clinton had recognised that different countries had different needs. Australia is unwilling to contemplate any stabilisation or reduction in its fossil fuel use over the next couple of decades.

The major industrialised nations' proposals are now all out in the open, but only limited progress is expected at the preparatory meeting in Bonn which goes on

through this week and next. When the world's environment ministers gather in Kyoto in December, there are likely to be deep divisions. Some leading environmental groups represented at the Bonn meeting claimed Britain was too weak in its modest and cautious criticism of the White House proposals. Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, said: "I think that there might have been room for further efforts." His country is taking a middle position, advocating a 5 per cent cut by 2012.

Raul Estrada-Oyuela, an Argentine diplomat who is chairman of the current stage of treaty negotiations, said the US offer was "a very modest one".

The United States of excess

● The average American uses more than twice as much fossil fuel each year as the average Briton

● The UK, with one per cent of the Earth's population, produces two per cent of global warming emissions - from burning coal, oil products and gas. The US, with five per cent of the global population, produces about 20 per cent of total man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

● The average American travelled 19,500 kilometres by car in 1995. The figure for the average Briton was 10,100 kilometres. It's not so much that Americans make longer car journeys, but that they make more car trips.

● Petrol costs almost three times as much here. The price of unleaded petrol in the US is about 22p per litre, compared to about 63p in Britain.

● A bottle of mineral water costs more than a gallon of petrol in the US.

● The overall fuel efficiency of American cars on the road today is 11.6 litres of petrol consumed for each 100 km driven. The corresponding figure for the UK is nine litres per 100km. Big, gas-guzzling pickup trucks and off-road vehicles sell like hot cakes to ordinary families.

● Americans travel more than twice as many miles each year as Britons on international and domestic flights. Per capita, they travel 2,500 kilometres a year on domestic flights. The UK figure for domestic flights is just 100 kilometres.

● Almost three quarters of US homes have air conditioning - summers are generally much warmer and more humid. And the average American home has 60 per cent more floor area than those in the United Kingdom, thanks largely to generous tax breaks on mortgages

● Domestic heating in the US works out 40 per cent cheaper. American homes also much more likely to contain two or three fridges.

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By-election mud misses Labour's young candidate

The SNP yesterday tried to ignite the sleaze factor in the Paisley South by-election, alleging that Labour was incapable of cleaning up its act in the town. Stephen Goodwin assesses the Government's first real test at the polls.

Approaching Paisley from the motorway west of Glasgow one of the first signs to strike the visitor points to a "dinosaur exhibition". Politics Paisley-style would find a natural home there.

The by-election caused by the suicide of Gordon McMaster is taking place against a background of internal Labour inquiries into the conduct of one of the area's MPs – the suspended Tommy Graham – and the running of the faction-ridden party in Renfrewshire.

Meanwhile in Glasgow, nine councillors are suspended pending the outcome of another inquiry into the trading of political support for junkets. These might look like inauspicious times for Labour to defend a majority even as comfortable as 12,750 on 6 November. But so far the mud shows little sign of sticking to the party's candidate, Douglas Alexander, who is the opposite of the beer-bellied, time-serving "Jimmies" who have traditionally been handed so many seats in the west of Scotland.

Renfrewshire born and educated, Mr Alexander, 29, qualified as a lawyer in Edinburgh and is a valued aide to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown. The Labour leadership ensured that no one linked with the tainted local party got a look in.

Labour has kept the campaign low-key, focusing on welfare and jobs, and was accused by the Scottish Nationalist Party of "running scared" when it defied convention by not holding daily news conferences.

At the general election Mr McMaster won 57 per cent of the vote. The SNP, which was second with 23 per cent, needs a 17 per cent swing to take the seat. The nationalist's candidate Ian Blackford yesterday challenged Labour over two councillors, Harry Revie and Richard Manser, who are suspended from the Labour Party but remain convenors of committees and are drawing responsibility allowances worth thousands of pounds a year.

"While Labour have been in a state of civil war, communities in Paisley have been suffering from the effects of Labour sleaze and neglect," Mr Blackford said. "The council can't even ensure that the grass gets cut."

MP acts over 'Donnygate' claims



Under fire: Kevin Hughes – pictured with his wife, Lynda, on election night – has taken legal action over a 'malicious campaign' Photograph: Paul Chappells

Television playwright Ron Rose is a family friend of Tony Blair through his father-in-law Tony Booth. But, as Ian Burrell discovered, he has been circulating pamphlets critical of Labour politicians and is now the subject of a legal attack by a party whip.

When Ron Rose was writing the script for his BBC political trilogy *Love and Reason*, he used Tony Blair as a consultant. A two-hour meeting in the then Opposition MP's London office helped to add a touch of extra authenticity to Mr Rose's tale of in-fighting on a local council in a northern mining community.

In recent weeks Mr Rose has been doing some more writing: a succession of pamphlets, also detailing local politi-

cal intrigue but in the real-life town of Doncaster.

This time Mr Blair may be less happy with the contents. The pamphlets – headed "Donnygate" – include serious allegations of a highly-personal nature which have drawn Mr Rose into a legal battle with the junior Labour whip and Doncaster North MP, Kevin Hughes.

Last week Mr Hughes' solicitors wrote to Mr Rose claiming that the contents, which refer to matters surrounding an extra-marital affair which the MP had eight years ago, were "both untrue and defamatory". Mr Rose was told to reply within seven days, to confirm or deny that he was the author of Donnygate.

A postscript on the last pamphlet read: "You got very excited about the authorship of 'Donnygate 1' Kev. On an historical note, you should know that political pamphlets are traditionally anonymous... Just for the record, Kev, Ron Rose wrote this."

Mr Rose was a Labour councillor in Doncaster between 1986 and 1990. He was suspended from the party after complaining about the activities of its ruling cabal. He is a long-standing close friend of Cherie Booth's actor father Tony and is currently working on a television drama based on Mr Booth's real-life love affair with the *Coronation Street* actress Pat Phoenix, which will be shown in January.

Last week Mr Rose made no secret of the fact that he had written the pamphlets. "I would welcome the opportunity to go to court to defend everything I have written. I have no faith in the party to get to the bottom of these matters without help from people like me," he said.

Mr Hughes said: "There has been a prolonged and deliberate campaign to malign my character by downright lies and innuendo. The matter has been put in the hands of my solicitors."

Mr Rose wrote to Mr Blair in 1995,

complaining about the activities on Doncaster council.

The Labour-run authority is currently the subject of separate investigations by South Yorkshire Police, the district auditor, and the Labour Party's own National Executive Committee.

The *Independent* had earlier reported allegations that a small group of leading councillors appeared to have treated the council as a fund for providing trips, in business class, all around the world, without the knowledge of their fellow councillors.

At the last election, Mr Hughes, a former miner, successfully defended his seat against a challenge from Neil Swan, a former Doncaster councillor, who stood on an "Against Corruption on Doncaster Council" (AC/DC) ticket. AC/DC targeted Mr Hughes because he is a former councillor who was chairman of the social services committee, although it did not suggest wrongdoing on his part.

Peter Mandelson to get five-minute Commons grilling

Peter Mandelson is to face his own five-minute question time in the Commons. In a move to more open government, back-bench MPs are to be given an opportunity to question the minister without portfolio for the first time, on 10 November.

Questions are due to start no later than 3.10pm, but as questions are scheduled for the Lord Chancellor's Department at 3.15pm, it is highly unlikely that there will be time for more than two questions.

The Commons authorities said yesterday that the new Mandelson slot would be a monthly affair for the foreseeable future – until Mr Mandelson achieves his inevitable promotion to the Cabinet.

The one specific job he has been given is overall responsibility for the Millennium Dome, which is attracting strong interest across the Commons as a £700m disaster-in-the-making.

A series of Dome questions tabled this week by Bob Marshall-Andrews QC, Labour MP for Medway, asks Mr Mandelson for: fees payable to the Richard Rogers Partnership and to M&C Saatchi; details of the tendering process under which M&C Saatchi and Bairdair, contractors, were appointed; and publication of any accounts of the controlling New Millennium Experience Company, in which Mr Mandelson holds the sole share.

— Anthony Bevins

Winchester poll set for November

The odds on two November by-elections narrowed last night as it became clear that the Winchester contest will take place on 20 November.

The Conservatives will select a candidate for the Beckenham seat next Thursday and look likely to move a writ for the election soon afterwards, possibly in time for a 27 November poll.

The Winchester election was called after the former Conservative MP, Gerry Malone, lodged a successful court challenge against his two-vote defeat in May by Mark Oaten a Liberal Democrat.

The Beckenham poll was precipitated by the resignation of Piers Merchant, the Conservative MP who was accused of having an affair with his 18-year-old researcher.



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Leak undermines Irish peace talks

Leaked documents from the Dublin foreign ministry are casting a shadow over the confidentiality of Irish diplomacy and threatening to effect multi-party talks in Stormont.

A number of secret documents from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin are circulating several local newspapers in an attempt to damage Professor Mary McAleese, a candidate in the Irish presidential election.

The documents include lengthy memos of conversations between Irish diplomats and Professor McAleese.

Circulation of such reports is restricted to a small number of people in the higher echelons of the Dublin government.

While it is too early to see whether the documents have damaged the McAleese campaign, it is already clear that the Foreign Affairs Department's reputation for confidentiality has been seriously undermined.

An indication of this was given in the House of Lords on Wednesday night when the former Ulster Unionist Party leader, Lord Molyneux, alleged the leaks were more serious than first assumed.

In an attack on the Anglo-Irish secretariat at Maryfield he said: "Such is the treacherous

nature of some in the joint secretariat that UK national security information is now being peddled in the back streets of Dublin and at least four files have been passed to the IRA army council."

His claims were denied by a furious David Andrews, minister for foreign affairs, who declared: "The document deals with political issues and not security matters."

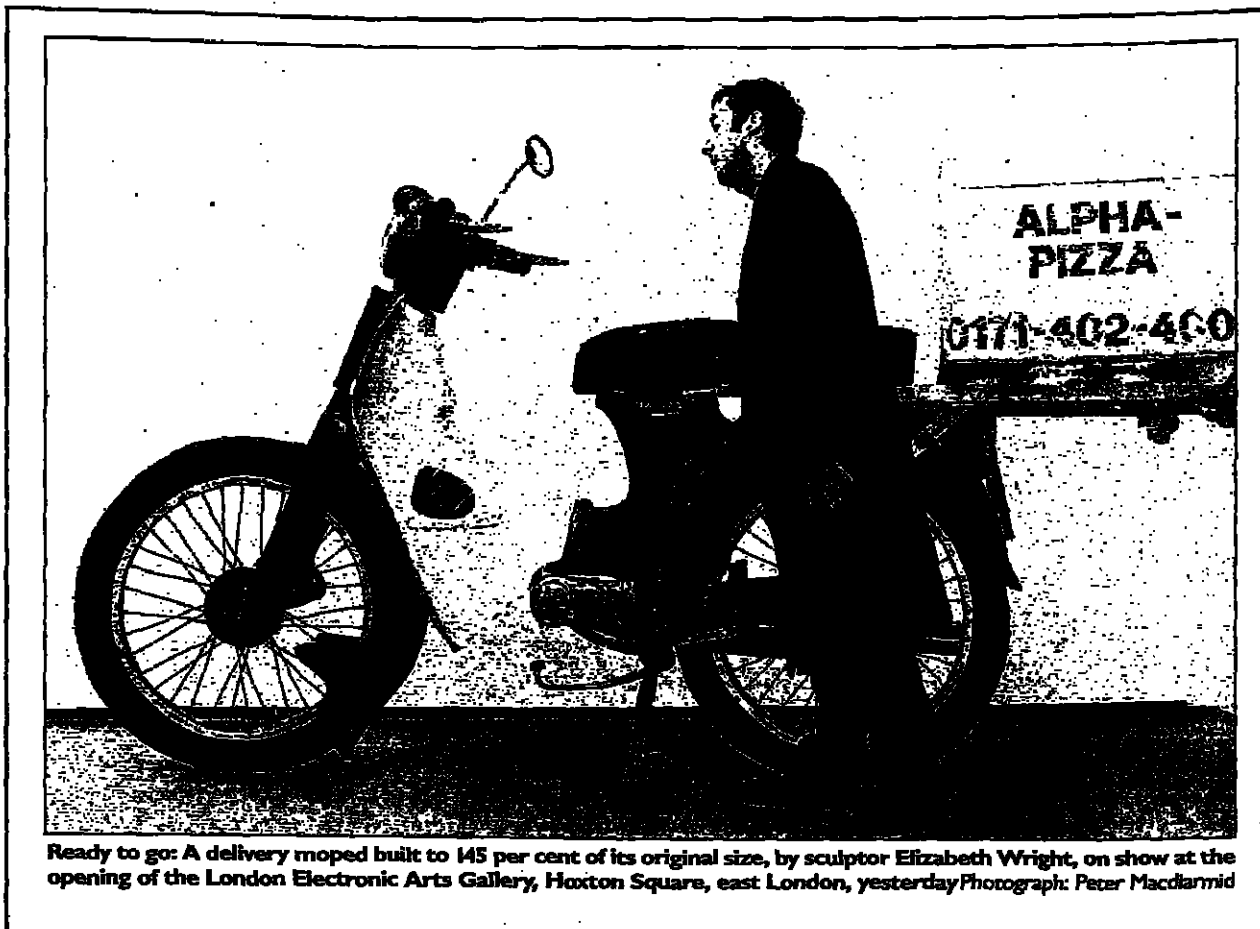
"Lord Molyneux's claims are extreme and they are not right. These are unwarranted, unfounded and outrageous allegations."

For the Government, the Northern Ireland Office minister Lord Dubs said he had no reason to believe that security had been compromised.

However, the episode may mean that exchanges between the Irish government and Ulster Unionists at the Stormont talks become more stilted.

The leaks are nonetheless being taken extremely seriously in Dublin. A high-level police investigation has been ordered by the Irish premier Bertie Ahern, with a number of journalists, civil servants and politicians already being interviewed by the Gardaí.

David McKitterick, Ireland Correspondent



Ready to go: A delivery moped built to 145 per cent of its original size, by sculptor Elizabeth Wright, on show at the opening of the London Electronic Arts Gallery, Hoxton Square, east London, yesterday. Photograph: Peter Macdonald

Police used pagers to track drug deal

Three drug dealers caught after police monitored their electronic pagers were jailed yesterday for a total of more than 20 years. Sean Taylor-Sabori, 35, Michael Hahn, 32, and Colin Jones, 49, were sentenced at Bristol Crown Court for conspiring to supply 22,000 ecstasy tablets with a street value of £250,000.

Taylor-Sabori, of Eastville, Bristol, had denied the charge but was found guilty after a trial in September. He jailed for 10 years. Hahn and Jones, both of Southmead, Bristol, admitted their involvement and were given six years and eight months, and three years and eight months respectively.

Commending the police operation that tracked the dealers, Judge John Foley said: "A combination of hard work and modern sophisticated technology has born fruit."

The three men were arrested in January 1996 after a nine-month operation in which police obtained a special court order for "parallel" pagers that enabled them to monitor messages between gang members, and thereby keep track on a consignment of ecstasy arriving from the Netherlands.

Blood transfusion gave man malaria

A man aged 78 died after receiving malaria-infected blood in a transfusion, an inquest was told yesterday.

Cecil Cook, from Little Maplestead, near Colchester, Essex, died from cerebral malaria after falling into a coma in August this year. He contracted the disease after receiving an infected transfusion at Colchester General Hospital where he was being treated for anaemia.

The National Blood Authority apologised to Mr Cook's family yesterday after the Colchester coroner, Dr Malcolm Weir, recorded a verdict of medical misadventure.

The authority's medical director, Dr Angela Robinson, said new tests had now been introduced. "The chance of this happening was less than one in a million - less than being struck by lightning."

"And, with the introduction of new screening tests, the likelihood of this ever happening again will be even more remote."

Driver 'unaware of Tube death'

The driver of a Tube train which ran over a young boy was unaware of the tragedy until a passenger told him at the next station, it has emerged. Ajit Singh died on Tuesday when the toggle of his anorak became trapped in the doors, pulling him along the platform and finally under the train wheels.

It emerged yesterday that the driver did not even realise that the accident had occurred on the northbound platform of the Piccadilly Line at Holborn station until he reached the next stop, Russell Square.

There, a passenger ran to the front of the train to tell the driver who then raised the alarm. The driver of the next train into Holborn discovered nine-year-old Ajit's body on the track and also reported it. However, several people who remained on the platform at Holborn, including the boy's foster father, witnessed the accident. A British Transport Police spokesman said they may not have raised the alarm "because they were so shocked or because they did not believe what they had just seen".

A post-mortem examination on Ajit, from Tottenham in north London, found that he died from multiple injuries.

Student loan study finds fear of debt

Fears over the burden of debt are deterring women and Asian students from taking out loans to help fund university study, according to new research.

A report by the Policy Studies Institute found over two-thirds of female students who opted not to take out a student loan cited concerns over borrowing as their main reason. The present loans scheme, in place since 1990, may be putting some potential students off going to university at all, the study suggests.

However, the findings also show that, among those who do go on to higher education, loan take-up is highest among the most disadvantaged students.

The study, published today, comes as the Government finalises details of a new student funding system, which will make loans the key element of public funding for student support. From next September, means-tested grants for living costs will be phased out in favour of loans, which will be significantly larger than at present. Students will also have to pay up to £1,000 a year towards tuition fees.

The PSI study, "Student Loans: Who Borrows and Why?", is based on a survey of almost 2,000 students in 72

higher education institutions, conducted in 1996. Under the present system, full-time undergraduates have access to a government-backed loan which averages about £1,500 a year, repayable after graduation once income passes £16,000.

Researchers found three in five eligible students took out a student loan in 1995-96, with most borrowing the largest sum available. Financial need was the reason given by three-quarters of borrowers, and there were particularly high take-up rates among students from poorer backgrounds and those whose parents did not pay their agreed contribution.

Dr Joan Payne, co-author of the report, urged ministers to monitor patterns of university entrance to ensure poorer students were being excluded.

Asian students were considerably less likely to take out loans than their white counterparts. Greater financial support from within the family, and religious objection among Muslims to borrowing at interest may explain the trend, the researchers say.

Women were more likely than men to decline a loan because of concerns over debt.

Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent

E. coli trial told of health chief's shock at meat sale

An environmental health chief was "shocked" to learn that several people had fallen ill with E. coli food poisoning following a party at which meat supplied by John Barr's butcher shop had been eaten - after the butcher had given him an undertaking not to sell cooked meat, a court was told yesterday.

Graham Bryce, North Lanarkshire Council's head of protective services, told Hamilton Sheriff Court that he was only given information of the party a week later on 30 November. Mr Bryce said when he was told of the party he attempted to contact Mr Barr to find out why other meat had been sold.

Mr Bryce said when Barr arrived at the council offices in Motherwell he explained to him that he had been told he was alleged to have sold meat the previous Saturday, 23 November.

He said: "I had received information from a Dr Evans at Lanarkshire Health Board that they had information from the helpline that there had been a party the previous week in Wishaw and that people were ill who attended the party and meat had been supplied by John Barr. The health board had information there had been a buffet with cooked meat allegedly from Mr Barr's. I was quite shocked. Mr Barr had given me an undertaking a week ago on the Friday night that he wouldn't sell cooked meats and here I was being told that he had sold cooked meats and that the people who had attended the party were ill."

Mr Barr denies culpably, wilfully and recklessly supplying cooked meat on 23 November from his shop in Wishaw, having, it is alleged, been told the previous day by health and council officials not to do so. The charge alleges that he supplied 100 slices each of ham, beef, and turkey, knowing they were to be eaten at a function at the Cascade Bar, Wishaw. As a consequence, the charge alleges, several people who ate the meat suffered E. coli 0157 food poisoning. The trial continues.

Council's deadline to reform

A Merseyside council has been given two months to sort out its chaotic social services or face direct government action.

The health minister Paul Boateng had a meeting yesterday with members of Sefton Council in the wake of a damning report published earlier this month.

Afterward meeting the councillors Mr Boateng said that "disturbing and serious failures" had been exposed in Sefton's social services which cast grave doubts on the welfare and safety of vulnerable people in the council's care.

He said: "Sefton are in the last-chance saloon. The council must take rapid and decisive action. I have left them in no doubt that they have two months to turn the situation around."

The minister pledged that there would be a White Paper on social services early next year which would set out proposals for extra government powers and for widespread reforms.

"Inspection and regulation of social care has failed to keep pace with rapid growth and diversity over recent years. Our changes will be fundamental," Mr Boateng said.

"They will bring a tough, transparent and accountable regulatory system and give ministers the power to act swiftly and decisively to address failings in the delivery of social care, whether by local councils or in the independent sector."

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To the Post Boy

By John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester

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Oaths would fright Furies and make Pluto quake.
I've swived more whores more ways than Sodom's walls
E'er knew, or the College of Rome's Cardinals.
Witness heroic scars, look here, ne'er go,
Circumcised and ulcers from the top to toe.
Frighted at my own mischiefs I have fled
And bravely left my life's defender dead.
Broke houses to break chastity, and dyed
That floor with murder which my lust denied.
Pox on it, why do I speak of these poor things?
I have blasphemed my God and libelled Kings:
The readiest way to hell, come quick -

Boy: Ne'er stir,
The readiest way, my lord, 's by Rochester.

This is our final selection from *Poets on Poets*, edited by Nick Rennison and Michael Schmidt (£9.95). In this 400-page anthology from Carcanet Press, in association with Waterstone's, almost 100 modern poets present work from poets of the past. Maureen Duffy introduces the Earl of Rochester.

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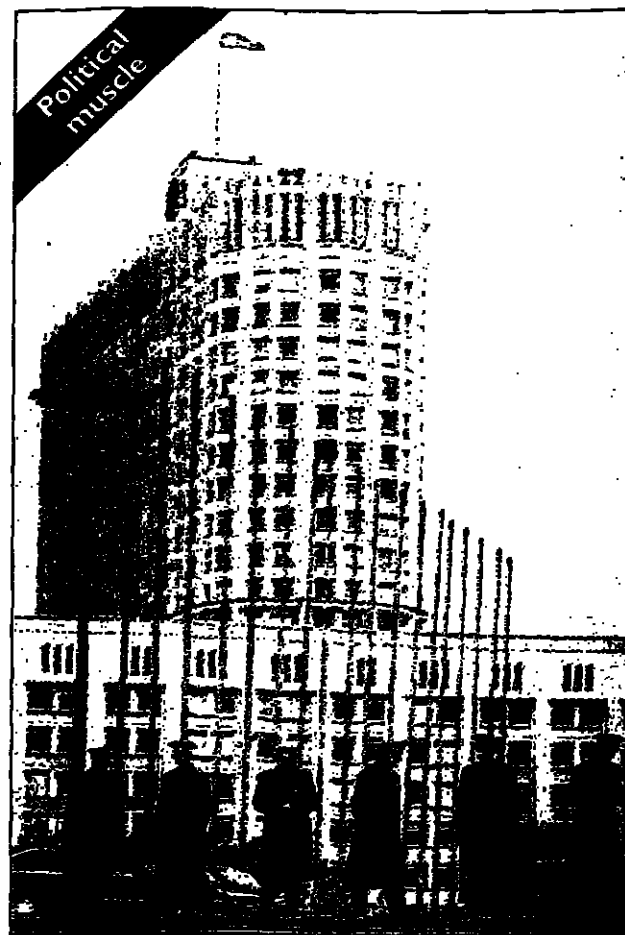
Mir space station: Mir has been hired to film commercials for milk and bananas. Photograph: Nasa



Bolshoi Theatre: Available for parties at \$14,500 a night. Photograph: Colorific



The Kremlin: \$29,000 buys a reception in the palace hall. Photograph: Headline



The Duma: \$10,000 can buy a seat in power. Photograph: AP

More and more of Russia's most cherished treasures can be rented by anyone with the cash. Economic stagnation has created a society where almost anything can be hired or bought - from a tsar's palace to an MP, or a Soviet-era submarine.

Money talks, as everyone knows. But there can be few places where it is as loquacious as in Russia. It says juicy words, words like "Kremlin", "Bolshoi", and "seat in parliament".

As the country grapples painfully with the transition to capitalism, the range of prestigious institutions and officials that are for hire - for a fat fee, of course - is expanding apace. You want to hold a party in the Bolshoi Theatre, home of the ballet company? Go ahead. "We call it cancelling a performance," said Valentina Dmitrenko, a spokeswoman. "On average it happens once a month. People come and eat and drink, and usually stay for a show. It means that the theatre is rented for the night - usually by a bank or big company." The price? Up to \$14,500, (£9,000); funds that the crumbling theatre desperately needs.

BY PHIL REEVES

In St Petersburg, the capital of Russia's cash-starved cultural legacy, wealthy new Russians can hold a ball surrounded by the treasures of the Russian Museum, so long as they make a donation towards its upkeep. A gift of \$2,000 buys an intimate private gathering for 20 people.

For \$10,000 you can party in the museum's Marble Palace, built in 1785 as a present from Catherine the Great to a favourite, Count Orlov. With \$29,000, an international company can hold a reception in the banquet hall and performance hall in the State Kremlin Palace. Alas, the rest of the complex remains out of bounds.

The renting of once-revered institutions owes much to a dire shortage of funds, caused by economic decline and the federal government's inability to collect taxes. But officials also have their price. One MP, Konstantin Borovoi, has claimed that all major parliamentary bills are decided beforehand by paying off MPs (deputies).

"This can be judged by how abruptly deputies change their votes," the St Petersburg newspaper, *Nevskoe Vremya*, sourly observed after a vote of no confidence in the Yeltsin administration fizzled out. Those not yet on the gravy train can always try to buy a ticket: a firm in the Tyumen region in western Siberia has offered to turn any citizen into a deputy for \$10,000.

Journalists are no better. Unmarked editorial articles in some Moscow newspapers and

magazines are as easily bought as a subscription. The practice is so widespread that a price list circulates in Moscow. Although journalists' pay has risen sharply, politicians and businessmen can still secure a favourable coverage with a bribe to an individual writer. "You get to know which journalist is being paid by whom, but the general reader, of course, doesn't know," said Masha Gessen, an unbribed journalist from *Izvestia* magazine.

While Nasa has a ban on commercial activity on its missions, Moscow is only too willing to make extra dollars for its hard-pressed space programme by hiring out the Mir space station for advertising. One Mir commander, Vasily Tishliyev, was filmed pursuing globules of floating milk in an effort to swallow them - an advert for an Israeli dairy company.

Pepsi and Toshiba have also made in-flight ads, shot by a camera-link to the ground. On his first day in space, Russian cosmonaut Alexander Lazutkin was under orders to eat bananas - another commercial. "Getting adapted [to space] was so difficult, I could barely think about it at all," he complained.

Back on the ground, other Soviet-era expertise is now for sale, albeit illegally. American authorities claim to have evidence of attempts by Russian organised crime to sell Colombian drug traffickers a submarine, helicopters and weapons. But there are those who resent the free-for-all, the sense that everything has its price. "We are sick and tired of receiving phone calls from people in Moscow and even the provinces saying they are ready to pay a lot of money to have a star named after them," said Dmitry Pritsin, an official with Moscow's Astronomy Centre, a state-run research institute. "We do not do it."

However, he, too, had heard that someone, somewhere, knows a man who does. "Allegedly some people, including cosmonauts, have been issuing a special diploma stating that a star or a small planet is named after the recipient... It's just a trick to fool new Russians."

As Russia puts itself up for hire, the artistic world looks on in horror. Russians remember only too well how Rembrandt's *Danae* was doused with acid at the Hermitage in St Petersburg. "Can you imagine what damage could be done to masterpieces [at the Russian Museum] by 20 drunk people in the middle of the night?" a retired literature teacher complained to *The Moscow Times*.

Valentin Rasputin, a renowned Soviet-era writer, complains that Russian culture is the victim of "barbarous" treatment. "Culture cannot be handed over to the market, especially to the wild market we have here."

Yet there are still some things that cannot be bought for love nor money. Try, for example, buying land in the capital; the autocratic mayor, and possible next president, Yuri Luzhkov, maintains an iron grip over freeholds. Land is, after all, a nice little earner.

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Fury as BBC restricts screening of Bevan film

A major television drama to mark the centenary of the birth of Aneurin Bevan – which cost almost £1m to make – is in danger of being screened only in his native Wales. As Media Editor Rob Brown reveals exclusively, BBC bosses in London are questioning whether the architect of the National Health Service still has national appeal.

Food For Raven was commissioned by BBC Wales in the firm expectation it would be shown on the network to commemorate the centenary of Aneurin Bevan's birth.

The decision to commit £800,000 was taken by Dai Smith, head of English language programming, who is an expert on the Labour legend.

But Mr Smith's monumental act of faith appears to have been misplaced.

David Thompson, the BBC's head of film and drama, and Mark Thompson, BBC controller, have both balked at scheduling the work on Saturday 16 November, when it is due to be shown on BBC1 in Wales to commemorate the centenary of Bevan's birth.

They have passed the decision up to Alan Yentob, director of television, who has also been prevaricating.

Their lukewarm response has enraged the actor Brian Cox, who plays Bevan, and Trevor Griffiths, the accomplished radical playwright who wrote and directed the 85-minute film.

Mr Cox, who has moved to Hollywood, told *The Independent* yesterday: "I'm incensed beyond belief. It's insulting to Wales and to the memory of the

man who founded the NHS." Mr Griffiths, whose previous plays include *Comedians*, *The Party* and *Thatcher's Children*, said: "I have been waiting a month to find out whether this piece of work put together by a large number of highly talented people is going to be shown to the nation or is going to remain a Welsh-only transmission. Frankly, it pisses me off."

"Everyone is being careful to say how extraordinary and moving the film is. But some of them seem to think it could be too demanding and too challenging for the sort of audience they are trying to attract on BBC2 these days."

He added: "I find it hard to believe politics hasn't got something to do with this, but I've no evidence to prove that."

Bevan, who died in 1960, is widely regarded as one of the greatest figures of the British Left this century, but he's very much Old Labour.

A legendary orator and revered socialist thinker, he was immortalised in a major biography by Michael Foot, who knew him for a quarter of a century and succeeded him as Labour MP for Ebbw Vale.

Griffiths's film – which also stars Sinead Cusack as Bevan's wife, Jennie Lee – focuses on his last days, as he looked back at his life.

As the writer expresses it: "It's a kind of elegy for an extraordinary man and a set of principles which have vanished from the British political landscape."

The BBC confirmed the fate of *Food for Raven* hangs in the balance. "It was originally commissioned by BBC Wales for BBC Wales and is being offered to the network, which is now deciding whether or not to show it," a spokesman said, adding that Mr Yentob was expected to decide on the matter by the end of the week.



National hero Nye Bevan and his wife, Jennie Lee. The actors and makers of, *Food For Raven*, a film about his life, are furious that it is only to be broadcast in Wales

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Diana's dangerous game of flirtation with the press

Dianamania will end dramatically next Sunday at 8pm when a television documentary will portray the Princess of Wales as a shrewd manipulator rather than the sad victim of the media. Rob Brown and Nicole Veash consider some candid confessions by some of the biggest names in Fleet Street.

Channel 4 would probably not have dared to screen "Dangerous Liaisons", the final episode of *Royals and Reptiles*, in the immediate aftermath of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Certainly few of those who agreed to be interviewed for this series about the monarchy and the media would have been relaxed about this particular programme being screened before now.

For the central driving thrust of the programme is that, far from being hounded by an unforgiving press, Diana had herself flung open the door to her private life by engaging in a very dangerous game with the tabloids.

Max Hastings, editor of the London *Evening Standard* newspaper, points out that the Princess often tipped off the press as to her whereabouts. "The Princess waged a very effective lurching war of her own," he states. "I think she would have withered on the vine and been a very unhappy woman if she had been left alone."

Mr Hastings says that he privately counselled Diana sever-

al times not to speak publicly about her private relationships but he had never had his advice so resoundingly not taken. "At the very moment we were having lunch, *Panorama* were setting up the cameras upstairs," he says.

Previously editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, he was staggered to discover that Diana had been the prime source for Andrew Morton's explosive book *Diana: Her True Story*. "I found it amazing that anybody, including a princess, could engage a tabloid journalist like Morton on that scale," Mr Hastings recalls. "It suggested a degree of wilful self-destructiveness."

He now looks back upon his hostile reaction to the book's publication as one of the low points of his 10 years in charge of the *Daily Telegraph*. "I allowed myself to think two things that no responsible journalist should think. One, it's not true. And two, if it is, they shouldn't say so."

Andrew Neil, former editor of the *Sunday Times* – the newspaper that serialised Morton's book – claims that the pro-royal press "didn't want to know if it was true or not".

The book had immense repercussions. Stuart Higgins, editor of *The Sun*, says that, once the Morton book was in the public domain, Andrew Knight (then chief executive of News International) told him to treat it like a manuscript prepared by the Princess of Wales.

"And so she has opened this enormous can of worms for her own purposes," adds Mr Higgins, who was interviewed for the series shortly before the car crash in Paris in August in which the Princess of Wales, Dodi Fayed and their driver were killed.

Driving ambition: Visitors to the 23rd annual Tokyo Motor Show sampling the virtual reality Astra Test Mission. Photograph: AFP

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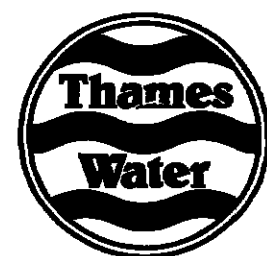
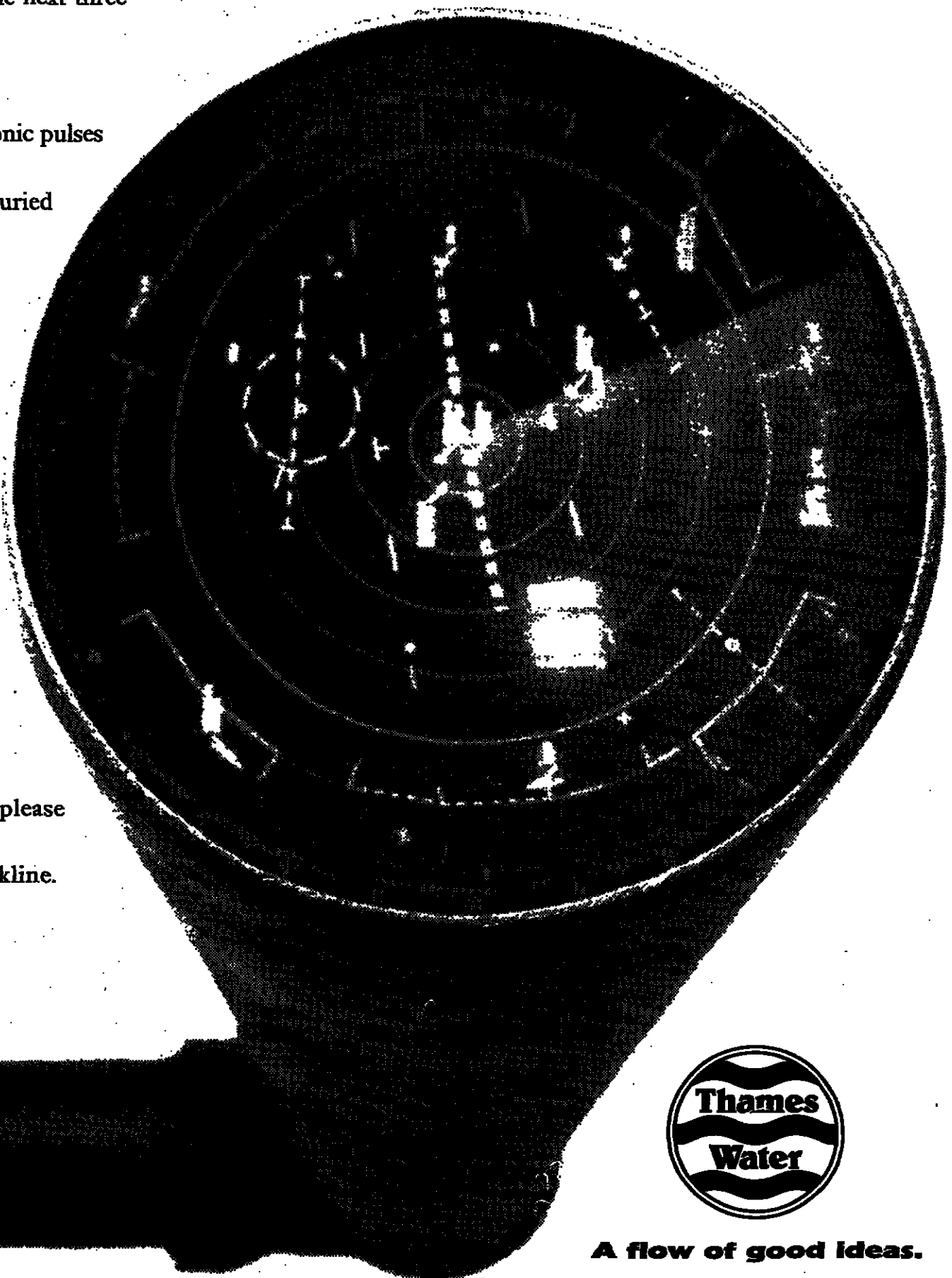
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A flow of good ideas.

Patriarch of Hamas gives his blessing to suicide bombers' campaign

The founding father of the militant Palestinian organisation Hamas says the suicide bombing campaign inside Israel will go on. He tells *Eric Silver* in Gaza why there can be no let-up in the struggle, even if it means causing civilian casualties.

On the whitewashed wall outside Sheikh Ahmed Yassin's Gaza home, his followers have painted a map of undivided Palestine in the rusty red of dried blood. Beside it is a mural of the Dome of the Rock, the logo of Arab Jerusalem, and the slogan: "Islam is the answer."

The 61-year-old head of Hamas could not have framed his message more succinctly. A few weeks after his release from an Israeli prison in exchange for two bungling Mossad hitmen, captured after trying to kill another Hamas leader in Amman, Sheikh Yassin has ended his convalescence and is coming out fighting.

In an interview with *The Independent*, he pledged to continue attacks on Israeli civilians and gave his blessing to suicide bombers of the kind who killed 21 in Jerusalem this summer. He denounced the two-state solution implicit in the 1993 Oslo agreement as a betrayal of Palestini-

ans' title to their land. The nearest he came to a conciliatory gesture was to offer Israel a "temporary truce", if it accepted all Hamas demands, and to promise Yasser Arafat not to provoke a Palestinian civil war.

A stream of supplicants flows to the one-storey cement house in Zaitoun, one of Gaza's poorest neighbourhoods, where the sheikh lives with his wife and 11 children. Paralyzed since his youth, when he broke his neck doing acrobatics, he receives them in a wheelchair. He is smiling and paternal; a disciple feeds him slices of guava.

The sheikh looks robust for a man the Israelis feared might die on their hands. His hearing has deteriorated, however, during the eight years of a life-sentence he served for fostering violence.

On his return to Gaza, the sheikh said that Islam forbade attacks on innocent civilians. Did that mean he was calling off Hamas's campaign of terror in Israeli cities? "Islam," he replied, "tells us not to attack civilians, but it also gives us the right to deal with an enemy the same way that he deals with us. If the enemy attacks civilians, killing them or demolishing their homes... it is our right to defend ourselves and deal with them as they deal with us."

"Did that include suicide bombings?"

"We call them martyr operations," he said. "God has chosen the martyrs... By their acts they get closer to God."

As for the ceasefire, Sheikh Yassin ex-

plained, "there could be a temporary truce, if they [the Israelis] remove all that remains of the occupation, including the settlements. They must release all Palestinian prisoners, open a safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, and recognise a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem. If we get our rights, the war will end. If we don't, the war will go on."

David Bar-Ilan, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman, refuses to take that idea seriously. "The [Hamas] proposals mean total surrender to Palestinian demands and the endangerment of Israel," Sheikh Yassin must know this. Dovish Israelis might concede his terms, but for a permanent solution, not a truce. Unlike Mr Arafat, however, the sheikh is not reconciled to the existence of a Jewish state in any part of Palestine.

"If you own a house and some aggressor comes and takes it by force, would you recognise that the house belongs to him? ... We have a right to fight until we get our rights back." So far, though, the sheikh is not challenging Mr Arafat. "We do not want to divide the Palestinian people," he said.

With Israel easing the closure imposed after the latest suicide bombing - 40,000 day-labourers are leaving Gaza and the West Bank for jobs in Israel - there is little stomach for rebellion. But Hamas is keeping its powder dry, and in Sheikh Yassin it has a charismatic alternative.



Devoted: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Hamas leader, surrounded by his supporters this week. Photograph: Ahmed Jadhah/Reuters

Crisis, It's and civilised

Commonwealth leaders are gathered in Edinburgh for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which opens today. For the first time, the meeting is a 'civilised' event, with no talk of arms or war. For the first time, it is a 'civilised' event.

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Terror tests Algeria's faith in democracy

Amid continuing massacres, Algerians went to the polls yesterday to elect local councils across the country. Robert Fisk found in the village of Bainem - scene of a massive army operation against the rebels - that Algeria's latest test of democracy is overshadowed by the fear of further bloodshed as well as electoral fraud.

High over the Ecole de Forêt de Bainem, an Algerian army helicopter gunship flew towards the mountains, but the voters did not bother to look up. For a week now, they have heard the artillery explosions in the mountains to the south and seen the fires burning long into the night.

Yesterday morning, the forests themselves were hard to see - for most of the wadis and ridges have been set on fire. A carpet of brown smoke hangs low over this former beauty spot which is now - so the army claim - a fiefdom of "Islamic" rebels.

So Bainem seemed a good place to check up on Algeria's democratic credentials: just a month ago, 19 local foresters, on their way home from wood-cutting, were stopped by gunmen on the road on which they were travelling yesterday. One by one, they had their throats cut. Yet in the local schoolhouse, I found classrooms filled with electoral officers, computerised lists of voters and a trickle of men and women walking past the police guards to support their candidates.

Hamidou Djadoun, the ageing local candidate for the RCD, the largely Berber, secular and fiercely anti-Islamist party, wanted to remind me of the day in 1991 when the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) picked up so many votes in Bainem that they tore down the sign outside the village which said "Bainem, By the People, For the People" and replaced it with a banner which read: "The Islamic Town of Bainem". "Why did they do this?" Mr Djadoun asked. "Their slogan suggested all other towns were not Islamic - but it's a fact all Algerians are Muslims."

The FIS, of course, is not participating in these elections. Banned after it was set to win the 1991 national elections, its members were imprisoned or killed, its militants split between armed groups, one of which has declared a ceasefire, the other - the Islamic Armed Group - has continued to assault the villagers of the Mitidja plain. The Algerian foreign minister, Ahmed Attaf, claimed on Wednesday that the FIS re-

mained the "primary cause of the tragedy our country is going through", despite the FIS's repeated appeals for a ceasefire and negotiations.

So did the people of Bainem think they were voting for peace? Many were voting for their retired village policeman, Hamida Djadoun. Others were supporting Daoud Bourina, the plump and loud candidate for the FLN, the highly corrupted but recently resurrected pro-government party whose old men fought for Algerian independence. Mr Bourina insisted the "font of terrorism" lay in London from where, Scotland Yard may be surprised to hear, the "world Islamic movement" ran their "international campaign of terror".

"We Algerians are able to master our problems on our own," Mr Bourina announced. "We must wash our dirty linen among ourselves. Many countries are watching us with an evil eye, but the children of this country are here to defend it." And so they said at Beni Msous where, just a month ago, 84 women and children had their throats cut in a night-time raid which - like so many recently - went unhindered by soldiers from the big army headquarters just over a mile away.

Why didn't the army intervene, I asked a man from the National Rally for Democracy (NRD), the party created by President Liamine Zouari only last winter which will - fear not - win most seats in the elections. "We have all asked that question but none of us has an answer," came the reply. "But you can't expect the army to solve this - the government to solve it - the population has been divided. But now the army has given weapons to the surviving villagers - which shows the measure of the government's concern."

The massacre victims were all families of men who had voted for the FIS, he said; confirmation that the massacre victims are themselves Islamists.

And yet, though only 10 per cent of voters had turned up within the first three hours of polling, into the local Beni Msous school came elderly men and young women and businessmen and street cleaners to register their vote. But would this, I asked Djamel Lakdjane, the candidate of Hamas, the legal, avowedly moderate Islamist party, help to end Algeria's war? "It all depends what you call terrorism," he replied. "Take a man with eight children who gets only 10,000 dinars (£110) a month and can't buy food. This is economic terrorism. There are 2,500,000 unemployed in Algeria. We are short of 1,500,000 houses. This is economic terrorism. And who is to blame?"

كلنا من الامل

Crisis, what crisis? It's another most civilised summit

Commonwealth leaders are gathering in Edinburgh for the first Commonwealth summit to be hosted by Britain for 20 years, which opens today. For its advocates, says Steve Crawshaw, the summit is a crucial forum which works to achieve change on an international scale. For its critics, it is little more than a giant talking shop.

The Commonwealth has a pathological loathing of conflict. This makes it a most civilised body. As a result, however, it can also seem toothless. The preferred option for dealing with a crisis is to pretend that there is no crisis.

Take the question of Nigeria, which will in some respects dominate the agenda in the next few days. Following the execution in 1995 of the activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, Commonwealth leaders at the Commonwealth summit in Auckland seemed galvanised. Nigeria was condemned, suspended from the Commonwealth and threatened with expulsion if it failed to clean up its act. The threat was specific: if Nigeria failed to make substantial moves towards democracy within two years (in other words, by this weekend) then it would be expelled.

A special ministerial group was set up to monitor violations of the Commonwealth's code on human rights. This was meant to prove that the Commonwealth meant business. The report of the ministerial group, drawn up six weeks ago, will be made public this weekend. But one thing is clear: any idea that Nigeria should be expelled, in accordance with the pledge made at Auckland, has been relegated to the realm of fantasy. Asked yesterday to defend the obvious change of tack, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the secretary-general of the Commonwealth, was affably vague.

The reluctance to grasp political nettles is typical, partly because of Mr Anyaoku's personal style, and partly because the Commonwealth depends so much on consensus. Even the suspension of Nigeria in 1995 was only achieved because of the brazenness of Nigeria's defiance. Nigeria hanged Ken Saro-Wiwa during the summit itself. The execu-

tion embarrassed and humiliated Commonwealth leaders, goading them into action that they would in other circumstances have been unable to agree on.

Short of another execution, the Commonwealth is unwilling to speak out too loudly about controversial issues. None the less, the decision by the Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, to stay at home can be seen as a back-handed compliment, indicating that President Moi is frightened of the criticism of his peers. Certainly, questions of human rights are more central than ever before. The Harare declaration of 1991 emphasised human rights for the first time, and subsequent summits built on that declaration. Human rights were once seen as an irrelevance; that has now changed.

The official theme of this year's summit is "Trade, Investment and Development", a subject where agreement is simpler to achieve. With its 53 members and a single common language, the Commonwealth is less unwieldy than the United Nations. But it is broader than regional groups like the Organisation for African Unity or the Association of South-East Asian Nations: it brings together East and West, North and South. There is a steady trickle of would-be members. Mozambique and Cameroon have recently gained membership cards; Yemen, Rwanda and Palestine would like to join. For the would-be arrivals at least, the Commonwealth is clearly not an irrelevance.

There were buried hints yesterday that the Commonwealth may move further from its colonial roots. Mr Anyaoku, describing its structure, said that the British monarch is head of the Commonwealth, "at the moment". When asked whether this meant that the arrangement might one day end, he was quick to insist that he had been "misinterpreted". In reality, however, such a change is both plausible and logical. The Queen, whose reign has spanned the end of the imperial era, is devoted to the Commonwealth cause. But there is no good reason why a future monarch should remain head of the Commonwealth, when the organisation has long ceased to be an old boys' club for those who had to sit on the hard benches of the imperial school.

English, as a crucial language of communication, holds the key; Britain, the former colonial ruler, does not.



Unholy row: Kenya's security forces have regularly beaten protesters such as during this attack in Nairobi Cathedral in July. However, the Commonwealth shows little sign of taking the country's government to task for the behaviour as it gears up for elections later this year. Photograph: AFP

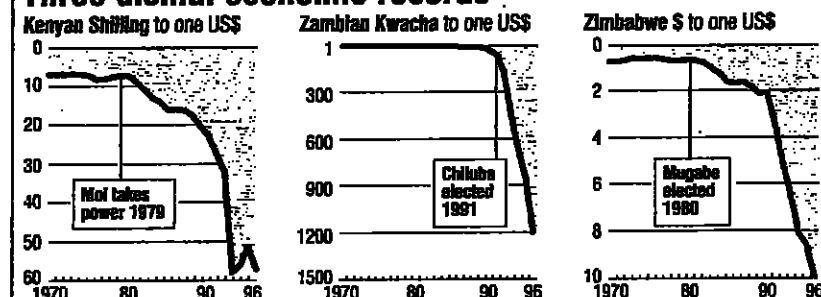
Leaders who have brought ruin to their countries

The fuss focused on Nigeria helped Kenya, Zimbabwe and Zambia, among others, sneak on to the Edinburgh stage almost unnoticed, despite widespread disquiet about their own human rights records and anti-democratic tendencies.

As the more shadowy anti-democratic presidents and their lieutenants chat with the Queen this weekend, an uncritical welcome will be an affront to Commonwealth principles and, in particular, to the much-valued notion of political "renaissance" on their own continent.

Daniel arap Moi, 73, the Kenyan President and old-style African strongman, failed to turn up in Edinburgh, and instead sent a ministerial delegation. At home, Mr Moi, president for two decades, is struggling to secure another five-year term in elections to be held later this year. International pressure forced the introduction of multi-party elections in 1992 but political opposition continues to be smothered and the rules of democracy hideously distorted. President Moi retains a vice-like grip through a vast network of patronage, high-level corruption and government control of the media, police and security forces. The law requires opposition parties to register for elections - but regulations prevent them from doing so. In

Three dismal economic records



re hoping for. In recent weeks his country has been racked by war veterans' demands for belated compensation for their part in the liberation war. The president is threatening once again to satisfy the vets by confiscating white-owned farms.

In Zambia, President Frederick Chiluba's victory in the country's first democratic elections in 1991 was welcomed by a nation eager for an end to Kenneth Kaunda's dictatorship. But Mr Chiluba learned the shortcuts and tricks of retaining power.

When Mr Kaunda launched a comeback Mr Chiluba, also not present in Edinburgh, was far from happy. Before elections last year he changed the law to bar candidates whose parents were not Zambian. Mr Kaunda, whose parents were Malawian, could not contest and the elections were boycotted by the opposition. Mr Kaunda, who continues to campaign, was shot and wounded earlier this year during a rally.

— Mary Braid

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16/CHINA AND THE US



Jiang Zemin: Next week's visit has the potential to set the course of US-Chinese relations in the future - for good or ill

Photograph: Reuters

Protesters prepare as Washington smooths Jiang's path

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

China's senior leader arrives in the United States on Sunday for the first US-Chinese summit since the killings in Tiananmen Square eight years ago.

In a week-long procession across the country he will be fêted and tested in equal measure. But President Clinton's much-criticised China policy will be on trial too.

Leading American China-watchers compare Jiang Zemin's US trip to Richard Nixon's ice-breaking visit to China in 1972. Others see it as an exercise in superpower courtship that has more in common with the epic visit of China's late leader, Deng Xiaoping, in 1979, when he won American hearts by going to the rodeo in Texas and donning a cowboy hat.

What no one disputes is that these two events were rare high points in a half-century of relations dogged by mutual suspicion, and that next week's visit has the potential to set the course of US-Chinese relations in the future - for good or ill.

The outcome, one advocate of more normal US-Chinese ties says, will "show whether the US can successfully manage the rise of a new power". That is the gentle way of putting it. At the back of many minds in Washington is the fear that China is emerging not just as the new great power in Asia, but as a global superpower with the capacity to rival the United States and take over where the defunct Soviet Union left off.

Relations with China are seen as poised on a knife edge. The best that can be said is that the Clinton administration's five-year policy of "constructive engagement" - trying to coax China into accepting the rules of international conduct as America would like them to be - has not failed. In the US, as in China, however, there are powerful constituencies of "hawks" just waiting to fight over its entrails - and then with each other.

Two days before Mr Jiang sets foot on American soil, and five days before the two-day "state" part of his visit begins in Washington, the White House is being wary. Summits, officials say, are not for "making policy". It forecasts no breakthroughs on any of the major topics of contention.

On the status of Taiwan, the perennial irritant, the White House says its position is known and firm, and hints that it is trying to keep the subject off the agenda. The newest source of discord is also being played down. Did Chinese interests try to influence US policy by making illegal contributions to the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign last year? The subject will not be raised, say those in the know.

Behind the scenes, however, the activity is frenetic. The supposed non-expectations have not prevented a posse of senior officials being dispatched to Peking over the past week, some of them at very short notice. Are they putting finishing touches to surprise agreements? Are they refining formulae that will hint at progress and goodwill without committing to substance? Or are they trying to avert disaster? No one will say.

That so many highly placed US officials are in Peking, however, shows how much the administration thinks is at stake. American public opinion may not be as uncompromisingly antipathetic to China as it was in the years immediately after Tiananmen Square. It is, however, more vocally hostile and

more sceptical of China's intentions than at almost any time since then, and that hostility spans a wide range of groups.

On the right are human rights campaigners pleading the cause of China's political dissidents and fundamentalist Christians protesting about religious persecution. The rapidly growing overseas Chinese communities harbour articulate influential supporters of an independent Taiwan and a democratic Hong Kong. Trade unions and workers' organisations accuse China of flooding the US market with cheap manufactured goods that deprive Americans of jobs, swell the US trade deficit and may have been produced by "slave" - or prison - labour.

From the military and foreign policy quarters come accusations that China has contravened agreements by diverting computers and technology earmarked for civilian use to military purposes and sold missile technology to countries like Iran and Syria. A book by two American academics published earlier this year called *The Coming Conflict with China* and setting out the worst-case scenario in US-Chinese relations found a ready audience and became a best-seller.

China's image is also taking a battering at the popular end of the cultural spectrum. Mr Jiang will face cinema hoardings advertising two new films that show China in an unflattering light. *Seven Years in Tibet*, with Brad Pitt, chronicles repression in Tibet and extols the Dalai Lama. *Red Corner*, with Richard Gere - a Buddhist and Tibet-sympathiser also - tells the story of a high-flying American lawyer who is framed for murder and tortured by the Chinese



Bill Clinton: Policy of constructive engagement

authorities. Anti-China groups, some led by former leaders of the Tiananmen Square protest and most formidably well-organised, have promised to pursue Jiang Zemin wherever he goes. His itinerary, which takes him from Hawaii to Washington, from Pennsylvania via New York to Boston and back to Los Angeles, gives them plenty of scope. So much, that Chinese officials in Washington took the unusual step of warning this week that the success of the visit depended on the US guaranteeing "a good atmosphere".

In a retort that testified both to the prevailing mood in the US and to the administration's concern not to appear weak, the White House cited the Bill of Rights on the freedom to demonstrate and delivered a feisty "We're not going to abrogate the US Constitution - not even for Jiang Zemin." In such circumstances it is perhaps for the best that, as one China-watching academic said, with acknowledgement to Woody Allen, in this summit: "Ninety per cent of it is just showing up."

WHAT THE TWO SIDES WANT

The American agenda

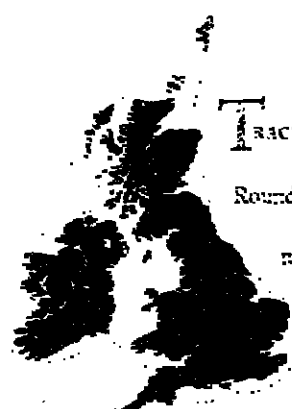
- To rectify trade imbalance - \$40bn in China's favour, and growing.
- Human rights end to persecution of political and religious dissidents.
- Tibet: early dialogue with Dalai Lama.
- Arms control: end to Chinese missile sales to Iran, Syria and Pakistan.
- Assurances about observance of Basic Law in Hong Kong.

Main points of the Chinese agenda

- Removal of remaining trade and military sanctions.
- US backing for membership of World Trade Organisation
- Permanent Most Favoured Nation trading status
- End to interference in internal affairs (criticism over dissidents, Tibet, etc.)
- End to arms sales to Taiwan.



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Britain in battle over Caribbean bananas

The Caribbean banana could vanish from British shops, replaced by cheaper, straighter dollar bananas, as the result of a US challenge to Europe's traditional protected market. Jojo Moyes considers the implications.

The Agriculture Minister, Jack Cunningham, yesterday pledged to resolve the dispute over a World Trading Organisation decision on banana imports which is threatening key Caribbean economies.

Dr Cunningham said he was deeply disappointed by a recent WTO ruling that the European Union's banana regime, which allows a quota of Caribbean bananas into Europe, was incompatible with its rules.

It followed a campaign by the US, which has large corporations with substantial commercial interests in Central and South American trade, and has fought successfully for an end to the EU's traditional positive discrimination in favour of the Caribbean banana.

The ruling, it is warned, could mean Britain is flooded with the cheap, straight "dollar bananas" and could destroy the undiversified economies of Dominica, Grenada, Belize, Jamaica, St Lucia, and St Vincent. It could also lead to drugs being traded in place of bananas.

"I'm very sorry that American interests took this issue to the World Trade Organisation in the first place," Dr Cunningham said. "I think the WTO decision is regrettable, but it's a reality. What we now have to do is to get a new agreement in the EU which will enable Britain and other countries who want to, to go on importing bananas from these tiny

Caribbean countries, to whom we have an historic obligation."

Dr Cunningham was speaking yesterday as he opened a new 20m Geest banana ripening centre in Coventry. Windward Islands' leaders from St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada and St Lucia were present.

He said he had voiced his "serious concerns" about the decision "in no uncertain terms" at the Agriculture Council in Brussels a few weeks ago and that he would be working to find ways of revising the EU arrangements. "That task will not be easy. We are, however, determined to work with the Commission and with our Caribbean trading partners to resolve this situation," he said.

The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Eddison James, said of the WTO ruling: "It will be devastating to our countries - social, economic unrest is what would happen." Bananas represent 51 per cent of Dominica's total exports, and Mr James expressed his gratitude at Britain's promise to act to protect the interests of Caribbean producers.

Supporters of the Caribbean growers, such as Glenys Kinnoch, MEP, and Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, have pointed out that the West Indian producers tend to be small-holders, who are sparing with the use of pesticides and more careful about workers' rights.

Supporters of the South American interests say a free market determines that banana growth must be economic, and that the £1.25bn market should not include a "protected cotton-wool environment" which costs the consumer more.

Ms Short is among those who propose a compromise arrangement which is to encourage Caribbean producers to market organic bananas in the European Union.



Going bananas: Caribbean producers fear the WTO ruling could wreck their island economies

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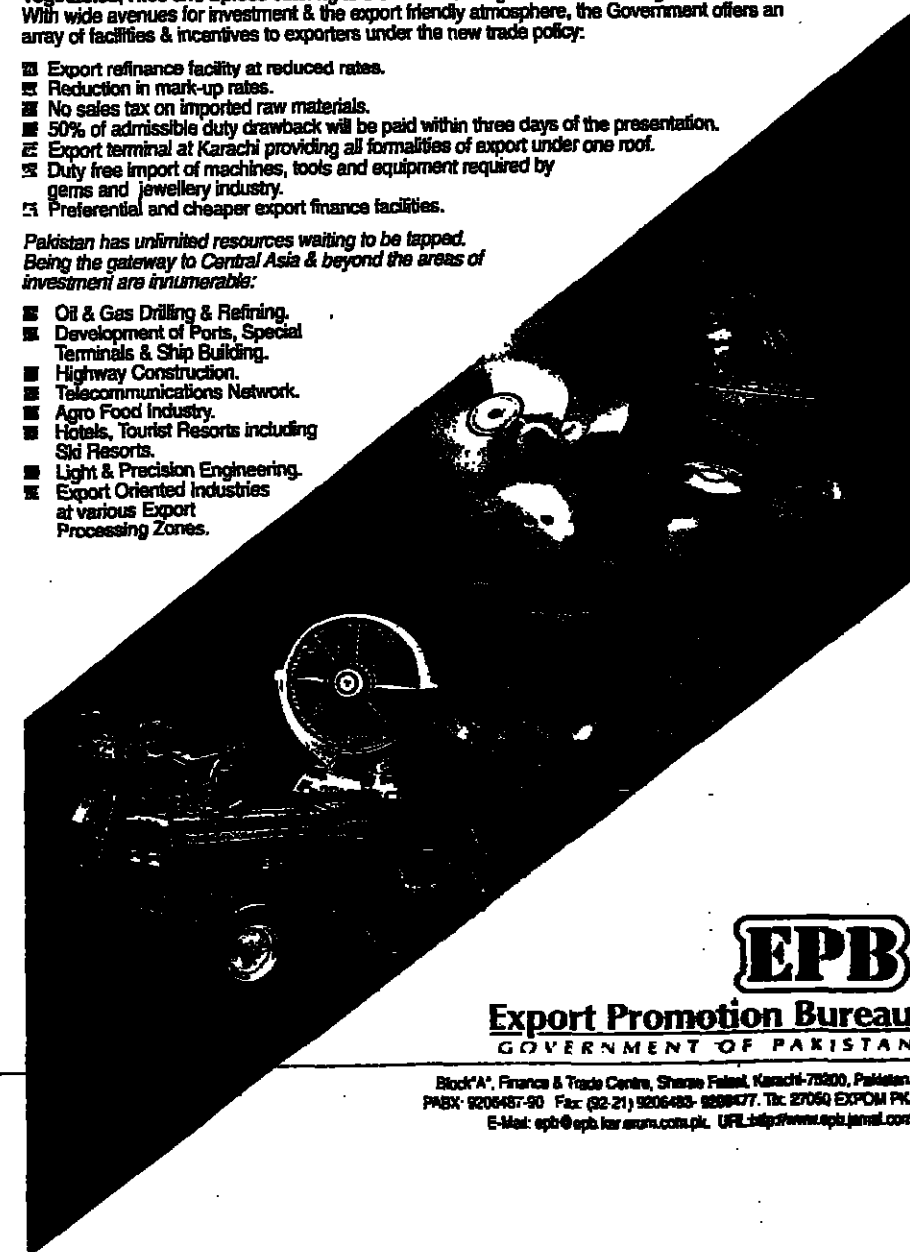
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Chinese takeaway loses its flavour

British fast-food takeaways are changing as the nation's palate becomes more sophisticated. Catering researchers claim that the consequences for the traditional Chinese chippie are grave unless they respond to new market demands, says Louise Jury.

Nutritionists may be sceptical but consumer demand for healthier, lighter dishes could spell the end of the high street Chinese chippie. Foods such as Japanese sushi are increasingly popular and are being eaten instead of some traditional takeaway foods, according to new research.

The number of traditional Chinese takeaways is expected to continue to fall, although more stylish city centre Chinese food outlets, like those seen in London, Manchester and Birmingham, are developing to take over from them.

Figures from the food industry analysts Marketpower show that overall sales of Oriental products, including Thai and Vietnamese, are growing faster than sales for other ethnic foods such as Indian and Mexican. Oriental cuisine represents 40 per cent of all sales of ethnic food in the United Kingdom.

Similar foods are also available in the supermarket and increasing numbers of people are dining out rather than taking hot meals home. The amount spent on takeaway food overall dropped slightly from £967m in 1981 to £918m in 1996.

Umesh Raichada, of Marketpower, which has just published a report on the UK Catering Market for Oriental Food, said that the Chinese fish and chip shop was now seen as "ordinary" compared with some of the new arrivals.

It currently forms 22 per cent of the takeaway/caf  market. But Mr Raichada said that the revolution in Indonesian, Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese food which began in London looks set to grow across the

country. For the time being, Thai, Indonesian and Japanese food is most likely to be consumed in the Greater London area and by affluent professionals under 35. However, the presence of industrial companies from countries such as Korea or Japan can make a difference to food availability in other areas.

The relatively small number of Thai people in Britain might restrict increased popularity of their national food. But the sushi boom could result in a doubling of the number of Japanese outlets by 2000.

Iqbal Wajid, of the Indian food and drink magazine *Tandoori*, said that the quality offered by Indian takeaways was often higher than that of the Chinese because most were side businesses for restaurants rather than sold in a "stand alone" shop. "Indian restaurants have been growing at the expense of the Chinese," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Sainsbury supermarket chain said the more exotic ready meals were a burgeoning market. "Increasingly customers are showing a growing sophistication and desire to experiment with the food they eat, a trend that can be seen in the growth of the ready meals sector," she said.

In addition to sales of Indian, Chinese and Italian meals, the chain has added six varieties of Japanese noodle-based dishes. "So-called fusion foods - bringing together the best aspects of the diverse food cultures that make up today's global kitchen - is also a potential growth area," the spokeswoman added.

Amanda Wynne, of the British Nutrition Foundation, said the huge amount of money spent on takeaways was not necessarily bad for the British diet, if people remembered to supplement their quick lunch or dinner with some fruit and vegetables and carbohydrate.

But she said that the greater diversity in foods available in Britain today had failed to encourage us to improve our diets. Nutritionists have made significant efforts to reduce the amount of energy the nation gets from fat, but they have failed.

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Over-worked doctors risk cracking under the strain



Health warning: 'That we are cracking up does not seem to bother anybody until it affects patients,' a doctor says

Government research into GPs' stress levels claims that the medical establishment is failing to face up to a health crisis. Ian Burrell says the profession is failing to meet the danger of over-work and is heading for a recruitment breakdown.

When stress victims visit their doctor they assume that the person listening to their problems is in good health.

But the millions who visit their surgeries each year may be even more stressed to learn that their GP could be in a worse state than they are.

The author of government research on the mental well-being of those in general

practice believes the profession is cracking up under the strain of working conditions.

The result is that many doctors are changing jobs or switching to part-time work, with the loss of patient continuity.

Graduates are also turning away from the profession creating a recruitment crisis.

Dr Richard Maxwell, a Bristol-based GP and fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners, has been studying stress levels of his peers since 1995 as part of a government-sponsored programme.

He will reveal some of his findings next month at a conference in London organised by the International Stress Management Association.

"The fact we are cracking up does not seem to bother anybody until it affects patient care," he said. "At the moment it is seen to be a whinge thing

on the part of these grossly over-paid doctors."

Dr Maxwell is highly critical of the Government and the medical establishment's failure to face up to a potential crisis in general practice.

"Someone, somewhere, ought to be saying: 'What's all this about? Why are we doing this to our expensive and highly trained medical profession?'" he said.

"The problem is that there does not seem to be a collective will to address the reality of it. Everybody is in the political game of sweeping it under the mat. The Government say we have still got enough people to meet the need. Unfortunately, there are strong vested interests in saying everything is rosy but unfortunately it is not."

When Dr Maxwell began his research the most common complaints centred on the pressure of being on 24-hour call. Now the problems centred on being asked to treat more patients with no corresponding increases in resources or rewards.

"All the research done by people like myself says it's

about pay, it's about being undervalued," he said.

But while Dr Maxwell blamed the Government and medical authorities for refusing to accept the problem, he said doctors were also responsible for failing to diagnose themselves and seek treatment.

"It is quite difficult for a doctor to be a patient. It is very difficult to change roles. We do have evidence that levels of depression, anxiety and stress are high, but the levels of uptake of services by doctors have been very low."

Ruth Chambers, of the Royal College, agreed that stress in general practice was a "very serious problem" and blamed the increasing tendency for hospitals to pass on work and responsibilities to GPs.

But she said that the matter was being addressed by the medical establishment. The Royal College is organising its own conference on the subject next month at which it hopes to draw up a national agreement for providing help for GPs. 90 per cent of whom do not have access to stress counselling.

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Ashley in plea to fund 'bionic ear'

Health authorities are denying deaf people a chance to hear by refusing to pay for proven cochlear implants, Lord Ashley of Stoke said yesterday.

Despite the success of implant technology - 97 per cent could hear and understand speech after four years - only half of an estimated 300 children who would benefit each year will receive them, because of what Lord Ashley calls "penny pinching tactics".

The "bionic ear" converts sound into electrical signals that directly stimulate the auditory nerves, bypassing the damaged inner ear.

The findings of a recent study by the Nottingham Implant Centre involving 100 children found that 30 per cent of deaf children given implants could hear and understand speech after the first year, rising to 97 per cent after four years. Doctors said none would have been able to speak without the device.

Lord Ashley was totally deaf for 26 years after an operation went wrong. Then in 1993 his hearing was returned by a cochlear implant. Now the for-

mer Labour MP champions the £36,000 plastic and platinum device by pressing health authorities to provide them.

Yesterday, he named 28 health authorities which had been particularly reluctant to offer implants. Worst offenders were said to be Oxfordshire, which, in the period 1994 to 1996, funded one adult and two child implants, and Lincolnshire, which paid for no adult implants and one for a child.

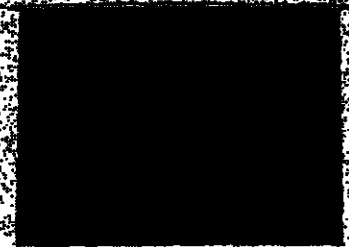
Lord Ashley said: "While implants are not cheap, nobody should be denied their right to such an important primary sense. 'One of the worst consequences of profound deafness is the sense of utter isolation from the rest of the world.'

"Technology that overcomes such a life sentence must be made available to all who could benefit."

He pointed out that while some of the authorities he identified had a reasonable overall total, they neglected either adults or children. Although children should take priority, both should be provided for.

— Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

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Sara Hamer was made redundant from her job at the top of the record industry. Deciding on a complete change, she spent the next four years studying medical herbalism
Photograph: Philip Meech

Hidden in that civil servant, an acupuncturist

This week Prince Charles asked the medical establishment to work with complementary treatments, such as herbalism and acupuncture. Had he been appealing to the Institute of Accountants or the Civil Service unions, he would have got at least as enthusiastic a response. They bristle with people who not only take such treatments but, as Sarah Lonsdale found, aspire to give them.

Quintus Farrell was plodding up the Civil Service career ladder at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Steady job, generous pension and, quite frankly, fed up with life. At 34, all he could see ahead of him were endless crowded Tube journeys and endless policy documents to prepare, until he collapsed in front of the television set at 65.

So he did something crazy: he took out a loan, shelled out £20,000 on college fees, books and travel costs and took a three-year course in acupuncture, held on alternate weekends. He graduated this March and now treats patients in his converted back room at home, for ailments including emotional problems, period pains, back ache and insomnia.

Financially, he is worse off. But otherwise he is ecstatic. He jumps up and down on his chair, bright blue eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. "It has transformed my life. I can be the person I really am, do the things I want to do. I can make appointments at times which suit me." He says that one of the most satisfying things about practising holistic medicine is that knowing one's patient is integral to the treatment process. "Unlike a GP, who will see someone for five minutes before making a diagnosis, I see someone for an hour at a time. It is hugely rewarding." On his course, there

were a surprising number of professionals in full-time work: other civil servants, accountants, and even someone from the pharmaceutical industry. And the list of registered acupuncturists' former careers reads like a graveyard of the professional classes: ex-teachers, ex-accountants, ex-solicitors, ex-civil servants. Most of these people have leapt rather than been pushed.

Sara Hamer, 32, was earning "good money" in the record industry, working for the Pete Waterman label (of Stock, Aitken and Waterman fame) and generally reaping the benefits of being young and employed during the early Nineties. "I was quite interested in alternative medicine and had used one or two over-the-counter herbal remedies for minor ailments," she recalls. The crunch came when Sara was made redundant, and despite being offered

another job at a different label, she decided to make a change to her life. She enrolled at the School of Physiotherapy in East Sussex, now part of the University of Wales, and embarked on a four-year course in medical herbalism.

Like Quintus Farrell, Sara becomes endearingly enthusiastic when talking about her job. "It's marvellous, marvellous. There are so many factors, growing herbs, making the tinctures and the medicine itself. I grow my own hypericum in the back garden and preserve it in alcohol. I love being able to walk round parks and gardens and being able to identify plants and say, 'that would be good for eczema or asthma.' If it doesn't work out and I have to find a proper job, then at least I'll keep all this," she says, describing with an abundant sweep of the arms some invisible, inde-

finable but obviously wonderful possession. She bites her lip, then adds: "There's more to life than making pots of money."

"After taking a career break to have my two children, the last thing I wanted to do was stand in front of a class of 30 unruly school kids," says Anna Cox, a former secondary school teacher, now a qualified aromatherapist. Although generally interested in complementary medicine, she stumbled into aromatherapy while deciding on an evening class. "My husband and I love to take evening classes. I had done dressmaking and Greek, and four years ago I was looking for another one. It was either guitar lessons, photography or aromatherapy. I chose aromatherapy." The introductory course inspired her so much that she followed this up with one on Swedish massage, anatomy and physiology before

studying for a diploma in aromatherapy.

One of the hardest hurdles to overcome was finding strength in her arms and hands. "If I did two one-hour sessions in a day, it would leave me drained, physically and mentally. Now I can do four in a day without breaking into too much of a sweat."

Anna Cox is earning less money now than when she was a schoolteacher, but she says she is so much happier that it is worth it. "I swapped job security for less money, but I gained flexibility, being my own boss and working in an area for which I have a real passion. All the properties of the different oils are fabulous. Lavender oil - now, I could spend an entire hour talking to you about lavender oil." She sits musing for a while, then grins. "So much nicer than marking homework!"

Tricia Allen, a former arts administrator and now a qualified homeopath, says she does not regret for one moment her decision to switch careers. Like many people who become interested in complementary medicine, she had first hand experience of homeopathy when she gave her teething baby camomile powder instead of trying to pour liquid paracetamol down her throat. "It worked at once, and I said to myself, 'Maybe there's something in this after all.'" Like most other alternative medicine courses, Tricia Allen's homeopathic course was long - more than four years - and drawn out: 11 weekends a year, plus plenty of homework. "It is quite a slog, and you have to be committed," she says. "But I don't regret it for a single moment."

Quintus Farrell talks as knowledgeably about Chinese acupressure points as he does about the finer wranglings of government lawyers over the BSE crisis. Sara Hamer can tell you a lot about rock royalties as she mashes up some pungent plant matter. Who knows, the next time you go for an aromatherapy massage, you may find your therapist can do your accounts as well as sort out your bad back.

Complementary treatment: if you want it, the choice is yours...

It is fairly common now for health service practitioners - midwives, physiotherapists and nurses - to opt out of conventional medicine and what they see as a hierarchical, male-dominated, interventionist profession, to the alternative professions of osteopathy, homeopathy and the like.

Midwives who choose to stay inside the NHS often take extra courses in cranial osteopathy, homeopathy and acupuncture, all of which are believed to help pregnant women and new babies. A number of NHS labour wards now have qualified midwife-acupuncturists on their staff, and several NHS hospitals offer patients homeopathic remedies. The Royal College of Midwives' most recent position paper on complementary medicine states: "The RCM believes that it is entirely appropriate that midwives should gain competence in new skills, in order that they can offer women a wider range

of choices during maternity care, including non-interventionist therapies."

However, more and more people from non-health service professions are opting out of the rat race, often taking significant pay cuts for a better quality of life and work in an area they are truly interested in.

In 1993 the British Medical Association finally accepted the huge public demand for complementary medicine by going back on its earlier, stuffy stance that complementary medicine was just a "passing fashion", and by granting the area an official report. The BMA's opposition to alternative therapies crumbled in the face of GP surveys which revealed that three-quarters of family practitioners have referred patients to complementary therapists, and that 80 per cent of trainee GPs at that time wanted training in complementary medicine.

"More people are qualifying as

acupuncturists and other types of therapists," says John Parkinson, spokesman for the British Council for Acupuncture, "and the fact that many colleges offer courses over weekends and in the evening illustrates the colleges' awareness that many students have full time jobs in other professions." Different colleges ask for different levels of academic attainment before they will accept you. Some require you to have studied a science subject to degree level, others stipulate no requirements at all. He does, however, add a word of warning that despite increasing regulation of the complementary professions, there are colleges which offer expensive courses that result in non-recognised qualifications.

"Before embarking on a course, you must ask 'what will this qualification permit me to do?'" The regulatory bodies will offer lists of accredited colleges to anyone who writes in.

Ah yes, I remember it well ...

Melissa Nathan explains why she and Jennifer Aniston will never be friends.

When Jennifer Aniston tells me to concentrate, in her new L'Oréal ad, it doesn't matter how nicely she says it or how flicky her hair is - I know she's on to a lost cause. It's the one thing I can't do - never could - concentrate.

Parties are the worst. I get introduced to someone. I should be concentrating on remembering his name. While we talk, not a thing about him escapes my beady eye. His dress sense, his mannerisms, his body language. We chat for several minutes. An old friend of mine comes over. Aha! Introduction time.

"Hi," I start, "You must meet ..."

and I'm lost.

If only I could say, "You must meet this man, he's got capped teeth and one eyebrow." As it is, he smiles apologetically at my friend.

"Winston," he says. Winston? How the arse did I forget that?

I'll tell you how. It's very simple. While he was talking to me I wasn't actually listening to the words that came out of his mouth; I was watching how they came out. I was observing the strange body-jerk he made when he tried not to laugh too much, and how one eye was fractionally smaller than the other. While his scintillating rock-climbing tale peaked dramatically, it was as if there were a melodic soundtrack dubbing out his voice and a camera zooming in on all his bodily tics.

He might as well have been trying to teach me O-level physics, for all I'd taken in. Not so much "in one ear and out the other", as "in one ear and ooh, hasn't he got a funny face?" I just can't concentrate. It's a fact. I'm sorry, Jennifer.

It's been like this for years, but somehow I always thought I'd grow out of it. I can remember, when I was four, my schoolteacher saying to me wearily in front of the whole class, "Melissa, you have a brain like a sieve." Even aged four, I knew this was no good thing.

Then she'd turn to the rest of the class and say, "What is Melissa's brain like?" and a room full of four-year-olds with brains like glazed clay pots would answer in unison: "A sieve." Odd, really, that while I was in Miss Cleveland's class I could never remember what number came after 10, but I always remembered what my brain was like. Odder still that 25 years later, I can remember her name. Perhaps that's the trick. Public humiliation.

The other day something amazing happened. I tricked myself into remembering someone's name. Two people's names, in fact. I was introduced to twins, and had to interview them about their happy home life. The tall one was called Daniel and the shorter one was called Adrian. I visualised a cartoon letter D for Daniel stretching upwards towards the sky, and a short, squat A for Adrian. I concentrated on those images. It worked! I had no problem recalling their names. I also noticed that Daniel made a noise like a hamster whenever he was about to speak, and that Adrian was more confident than his taller brother.

I did, however, completely forget what they said. Ah well, I'm getting there, Jennifer.

The Dear John letters - gay etiquette and agonies explained



JOHN LYTTLE

Agony uncle for a week (and no more), our resident repository of wisdom brings enlightenment to places that agony aunts cannot reach

Dear John, I pride myself I know my handkerchief code - yellow for water sports, olive for military, purple for piercing, black for sadomasochism, right-hand pocket, Slave, left hand, Master, etc. Last night I saw a white hankie with red spots, top shirt pocket. I'm flummoxed. What does it mean?
Mystified, Manchester
It means someone has a nosebleed. Next!

Dear John, What should I call my boyfriend in public? My partner? Lover? Significant Other? Infatuated, London
Who cares? He's only going to drop you for some brain-dead, 18-year-old gym bunny. Oh yes! Mark my words. They drain your precious youth and drink cabinet and never share their feelings or stash. Then one Saturday you're out choosing curtain material and he says he hates the midnight blue with gold stars, and by the way he's met someone else. He's called Randy. I'll bet he is! Boom, you're dumped - with only memories, a rash, and the March 1992 issue of *Euro Boy* to help you make it through the night. You call him whatever you want - I call him a bastard.

Dear John, What is the ultimate goal of gay politics? PC, Preston
The right to legally adopt your favourite leather jacket.

Dear John, I've known my best friend for nine years. He's sweet, kind and understanding. I've finally realised that we'd be the perfect couple, only he's recently met some blond and is head over heels. What should I do?
Hopeful, Littlehampton
You should stop seeing romantic comedies starring Julia Roberts.

Dear John, My partner wants to shave his head. Should I let him?
Dick, Dublin
You've obviously never tried finding your fella in a club crammed with chrome domes on a Saturday night. God, the embarrassment of tapping shoulder after shoulder and asking, "Excuse me, but are you my boyfriend?" You'd get fewer filthy looks if you said, "Excuse me, but will you be my boyfriend?" and after an hour or five it's a temptation.

Well, a clone is a clone is a clone - the reason why so much gay-perpetrated crime goes unsolved. Identity parades are absolutely pointless.

Good cop: "Sir, we believe the man who stole your heart is in this line-up. Don't rush ..."

You (slowly): "It was him ... No, him ... No, him ..."

Bad cop: "I arrest you for wasting police time."

Tell your boyfriend to shave away. Then produce the electronic tag.

Dear John, I'm about to sleep with a straight man from work. Am I doing the right thing?
Hot and Bothered, Brighton
Bestiality is never right, even if the animal consents.

Dear John, My love has got no power. He's got his strong beliefs. My love has got no money. He's got his strong beliefs. My love has got no fame. He's got his strong beliefs.

Gala, In The Top 20
Drop him, darling.

Dear John, Who or what are men who have sex with men?

Huh? Hounslow
No one knows. Not even them. That's what happens when sexuality is declared infinitely mysterious: labels fade and scattergories mushroom.

So, "men who have sex with men" could be, a) homosexuals who haven't yet identified themselves as such, and thus a redundant updating of the open and shut "closet case", or b) a term some bisexuals define themselves by, or c) a handy heading for those heterosexuals who don't care who does what to them as long as somebody does. Not so much infinitely mysterious as plain expedient. Still, as Plato said: "Does it really matter as long as you're getting laid?" Or was that Julian Clary? Whatever.

Dear John, should one tip rough trade?
More Money Than Sense, Maidenhead
The short answer is no. The Inland Revenue does not recognise tips as a legitimate part of rough trade earnings. The other answer is yes - especially if he has a knife.

Dear John, What should one do when romance leaves a relationship?
Worried, Wolverhampton
Get dressed and go home.

Dear John, I want monogamy. My lover wants to be "non-exclusive". I believe we'll break up if this happens. He says we'll break up if it doesn't.
Gary, Grimsby
Grimsby? Honey, you don't have a problem. You're the only two homosexuals there.

Dear John, What is irony?
Oscar, Reading Gaol
Five hundred queens dancing to "You're So Vain". They probably think this song is about someone else.

Q Do gay men wear make-up?
Victor, Victoria
That stereotype is without foundation.

Q Do gay men go to heaven or hell?
Ian, Paisley
They go to Ikea, Heals and Conran.

Let your members off the leash, Mr Blair



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If the European Parliament matters, then we should care about the way in which it is elected. Most people, and most journalists, do not think it matters very much: which is why the spat in the Labour Party over the voting system for the 1999 Euro-elections has been reported as "Blair vs the Dinosaurs", part 53, the main plotline being the Strasbourg Four martyred on trumped-up charges for refusing to be "gagged". But what do these Euro-MPs want to say, that the Stalinist henchpersons of the Millbank Lubianka won't let them? Let us look at the substance, not the split, thud, whack of conflict-based reporting.

This is feeble-minded humbug. The

party's mentality has failed to make a number of adjustments to the fact that Labour is now in government rather than in opposition, and this is a particularly ripe example. The Strasbourg Parliament has grown, is growing and will grow in importance, and the way Euro-MPs are elected matters to everyone, not just the Labour Party. So there should be a public debate, rather than a period of speculation preceding the handing down of Tony Blair's Decision from a high mountain.

First blood, then, to the Strasbourg

Four, in their revolt against the "democratic centralism" of the New Labour machine. Even discussions with the Liberal Democrats take place behind closed doors; television cameras may have been let in to film the Lib-Lab Cabinet committee, but the public is not allowed in. If this is the dawn of a new pluralism in British politics, then it must be said that many old ways of the night have survived.

But this is still not the substance of the

old constituency system - it was only through the inattentiveness of the Labour machine that they were allowed through last time. Under Mr Blair's reforms, the party leadership now exercises firm control, at least in the form of veto, over candidate selection, regardless of electoral system.

Will Mr Blair keep faith with the "one member, one vote" creed on which he built his reputation in the party? Will places on

the lists be decided by ballots among all Labour members in a region - a kind of "primary" election like the party's leadership contests? Mr Blair's instincts seem to lean the other way: he seems to trust his members only on a manifesto or for parliamentary candidates from a short-list defined by the centre. And the point about list PR systems is that they allow the centre too much scope.

That said, any form of PR will bring about a welcome shift in all parties' attitudes towards winning elections; because every vote will count, it will no longer be enough simply to concentrate on a few marginal constituencies. But, with different proportional systems likely for elections to the Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and Greater London Authority, we must move from a politics of command and control to one of spreading and sharing power. If Blairism is not about that, then it isn't worth having.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Save the whale hunt

Sir: I write from the Faroe Islands. Life has been harsh since these rocks in the North Atlantic were settled by our Irish and Norse forefathers a thousand years ago. But over the centuries we have evolved a very distinct culture. An integral part of this is the way we carefully harvest from the natural resources which surround us, including the pilot whales which pass our shores in large numbers. This has produced howls of outrage from people who know nothing of our way of life but nevertheless issue arrogant demands that we stop killing whales ("Dismay at bid to end whaling ban", 17 October).

This clamour comes from people who describe themselves as environmentalists who are based in the metropolitan centres of Europe - the very places from which most of the pollution which despoils our ocean is generated. We in the Faroe Islands find the debris of European industry in our milk and drinking water.

This makes it all the more galling to see the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) quoted in your newspaper. When the British government accords such organisations charitable status when they misuse these privileges to terrorise a nation like ours that is dependent on the nature they claim to protect, it all seems to go beyond comprehension. But then city slickers have always seemed pretty weird to me.

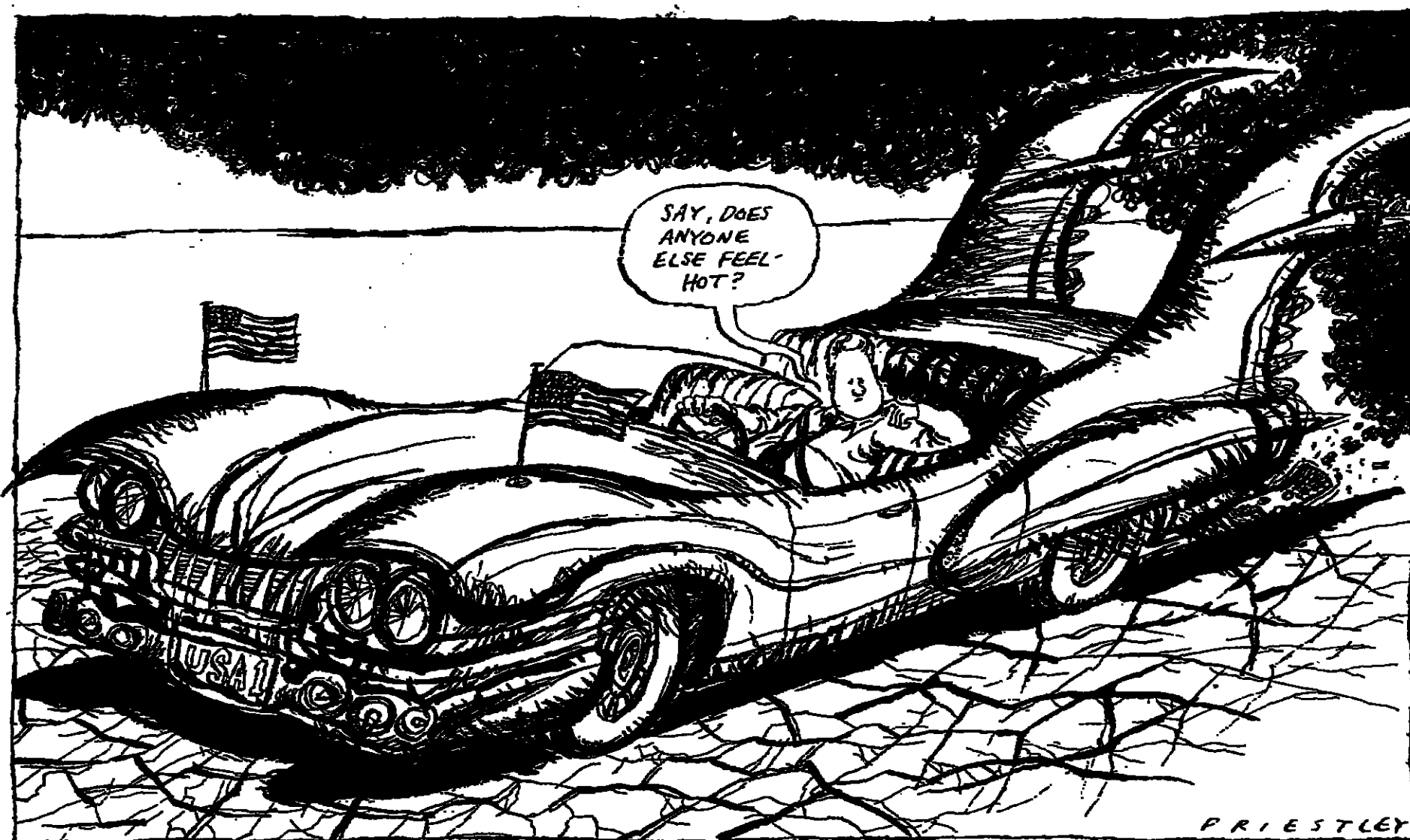
Our annual catch of 1,500 pilot whales is entirely sustainable. Total numbers in the North Atlantic are estimated at 800,000. The Irish proposals on coastal whaling at the International Whaling Commission appear to be based on the same principle of sustainability. The British government appear to have been browbeaten into backtracking from their original intention to accept this compromise.

D P MARJUSARSON
Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Clinton gives in

Sir: So President Bill Clinton has revealed that the United States does not have what it takes to combat human-induced climate change ("America reveals her policy on global warming: too little, too late", 23 October).

Clinton's impotence demon-



strates that economic policy is now determined by a few transnational corporations such as the members of the US-based Global Climate Coalition. The GCC - harbouring household names such as Shell, Texaco and Ford - was set up to discredit the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recommendation of 60-80 per cent cuts in carbon dioxide emissions.

The GCC's lobbying of Congress and attacks on IPCC scientists have been intense. More than \$10m has been spent in the past couple of months on a massive advertising campaign to convince Americans that their jobs and economic welfare would dissipate if CO₂-cutting measures. There has been no recognition that energy efficiency is good for both the planet and jobs.

DAVID CROMWELL
Southampton Green Party

Sir: President Clinton's proposal to stabilise US carbon-dioxide output at 1990 levels by 2010 may be the best he could do in the face of strong opposition, but it is not good enough. The lobby groups he faces may dismiss ethical arguments for higher cuts in emissions, but they will not ignore an economic argument. If enough people around the world boycott goods and services supplied by companies in the lobby groups, they will sit up and take notice. Let's think twice before we buy an American car.

CHRIS BETTERTON
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Schizophrenia help

Sir: In an otherwise balanced and informative article ("The point is not what causes schizophrenia, but how to control it", 21 October), Andreas Whitman Smith refers inaccurately to anti-psychotic drugs as "phar-

macological straitjackets". The term dates back to the use of the first anti-psychotic drugs, which did have unpleasant side-effects, similar to the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Most troublesome was the extreme stiffness, which limited a person's ability to move. Hence the term "straitjacket".

However, things have changed. It is now possible for sufferers from schizophrenia to obtain good symptom relief from a range of medications, without experiencing drowsiness, Parkinsonism or the experience of being "zombified". Antipsychotic drugs can, in fact, be liberating for individuals rather than being used to control or contain them.

I am not suggesting that they can be a substitute for psychological therapies. Neither type of therapy is curative, both are effective, and they work best when used together. So, why does drug therapy seem to be all

that is offered? In my typical inner-city district, psychological therapies for schizophrenia are virtually non-existent.

An act of political will is needed to ensure the development of such high-quality, relatively expensive services and to ensure that people with schizophrenia receive the comprehensive and effective service they deserve.

Dr PHILIP TIMMS MRCPsych
Senior Lecturer in Community Psychiatry
Guy's and St Thomas' United Medical and Dental Schools
London SE1

Sir: My 32-year-old schizophrenic stepson committed suicide four weeks ago. Fourteen years of medication, together with numerous courses of psychotherapy were not enough to persuade him that life was worth living.

Undoubtedly, the medication calmed him and, because he was highly intelligent, he was able to understand and partially master his distressing symptoms after his earliest course of therapy.

Nonetheless, his inability to work and to function normally filled him with despair. His prime need, voiced on numerous occasions, was for a stable, stress-free environment where, in times of need, he could push open a door to find a sympathetic listener. His suicide occurred whilst he was living alone, having been persuaded by psychologists, friends and relatives that he should aim for independence.

The black moods of schizophrenia make them difficult to live with and most of them are too great a burden for their family members. Nevertheless, society has a duty to find a *modus vivendi* for this quite large subsection of the population. It is nonsensical for Andreas Whitman Smith to speak of a "cure" in any conventional sense. It would surely be more appro-

priate to provide safe havens in the form of hostels with trained healthcare professionals, rather than spend huge sums on psychotherapy.

Dr HELEN DODSWORTH
MB FRCP
Paris

Animal testing

Sir: The Government's failure to implement an immediate ban on cosmetic testing on animals was apparently due to recommendations made by the Animal Procedures Committee (report, 21 October; letters, 23 October).

This committee is composed of two lawyers, three university professors, three representatives of animal welfare groups and no fewer than nine people who are, or have been, involved in experiments on animals or are employed by companies with such involvement.

PETER ALLEN
Worthing, West Sussex

Cash-starved Tube

Sir: You report ("Prescott and Brown clash over Tube funding", 21 October) that funding for the London Tube will be short by £150m this year. The position will be much worse next year, when, according to a parliamentary answer, total investment will be only £215m, £485m less than the £700m needed. This is not only due to the overspend on the Jubilee Line extension, but also a result of the cuts in funding made in the 1996 Budget.

You also report that Price Waterhouse has concluded that the Tube could run with virtually no subsidy. It has been known for a long time that the entire system could eventually be self-financing, but only if the severe backlog of under-investment, some £1.2bn, can be made up.

As a transitional step, LT should be allowed to borrow the funds needed for extra investment next year. This could be refinanced when new arrangements are put in place.

STEPHEN O'BRIEN
Chief Executive
London First
London SW1

The pay's the thing

Sir: I agree with David Lester (A Week in the Arts, 11 October) that price matters to people going to the theatre for the first time. CDs can be frequently reused or sold second-hand; theatre tickets can't.

Theatres might consider offering "money back if not satisfied" guarantees (as some bookshops do) or a credit note allowing free admission to a subsequent performance. This might help to ensure that a disappointing first visit would not be the last.

CAROLYN BECKINGHAM
Lewes,
East Sussex

Peer pressure

Sir: I am delighted that the Earl of Sandwich thinks that the House of Lords works well. (Letter, 21 October).

I'm sure it does work well for him, but it doesn't work well for me. Seeing as we disagree, please can we have a vote on it?

The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL
Liverpool

So hold on a minute. Do you mean, the millennium has already been and gone?



MILES KINGTON

This millennium thing... Do you mean, the millennium? Yes. The millennium. Then say so. Don't say "This millennium thing". If there is one thing I can't stand, it's sloppy thinking and sloppy talking.

That's two things. You're right. If there are two things I can't stand, it's sloppy talking and thinking.

Now, what was your question about the Millennium? When is it going to be? Have they decided yet?

Yes. They have decided that the right date is the beginning of AD 2001, but as they know everyone wants it to be held in AD 2000 they have decided to go for that.

They have deliberately gone for the wrong date? Yes. This is called democracy.

What happens if the world ends at the beginning of AD 2001, a year after everyone will think the millennium has been and gone?

There will be some red faces down at the Millennium Dome. The last time we had a millennium, in AD1000...

Or AD1001.

Or AD1001, everyone thought the world was going to end. But it didn't. Why aren't there any such global scares this time round?

Oh, but there are. We pride ourselves on being all modern and logical but we are no different. Already there is a massive

scare that at the end of AD1999 all computer programming will break down, because computers think the next year is 1900, not 2000. This is a superstition which has already spread throughout the world.

And is there any truth in it? I am afraid there is, as a matter of fact. Scientists now think that if all computers are convinced that we are going back to 1900, this in fact is what will happen.

We will go back to 1900?

Yes.

Good Lord. What will happen? What will the place be like?

Prince of Wales, who is not a very popular figure because he is considered to have cheated on his wife and to be far too keen on horses...

Hold on, hold on. You are describing the situation today, are you not?

And in 1900. Uncanny, is it not?

And there will be a great deal of interest in Oscar Wilde, and Germany will be getting too big for its boots, and there will be unrest in South Africa, and the United States will be worried about Cuba, and...

Just a moment. Are you trying to say that nothing ever changes?

No. Some things do change. The window display in W.H. Smith, for instance. Very slowly,

but it does change slightly in 100 years.

I see. Incidentally, did they ever celebrate the millennium before Jesus was born? How did they date years then?

The Romans dated everything from the founding of Rome, or, in Latin, "ab urbe condita". The founding of Rome was reckoned to have taken place in 753BC, so AD0 was 753-1UC.

So the Romans never got to their millennium? That's sad. Hold on a moment. The world didn't switch to AD0 as soon as Jesus was born, you know. They went on with the Roman numbering for a long time.

So they would have reached their millennium in, let me see, what's 1,000 minus 753?

247. Right. So AD247 was 1,000 years after the founding of Rome, and would have been their millennium.

Did they celebrate it? I have no idea. However, archaeologists have recently found remains from that period that look like a large dome which may have been constructed specially for the celebrations.

What happened to it? They think it was destroyed in the celebrations.

"Millennium" is, of course, a Latin word.

What does it mean? It means "millennium". But there is no proof that the Romans actually did mark the millennium.

You might just as well ask if the Jews, who are now in their year 5758, celebrated their fifth millennium 758 years ago.

Did the Jews, who are now in their year 5758, celebrate their fifth millennium 758 years ago, that is to say, in AD1239?

I would suspect that in the year 1239 the Jews were keeping a fairly low profile, and that if they celebrated the year 5,000, they kept it fairly quiet.

How quiet? So as not to disturb the neighbours or attract any attention.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

This information pack has been issued by the Millennium Quango. There is no charge for reading it.

Even a good man can be wrong when in office



**DONALD
MCINTYRE**
REFORM OF THE
WELFARE STATE

Frank Field, Social Security Minister of State, is a prototypical Labour moderniser. He was fighting a brave and bloody battle with Militant in Birkenhead when some people who would now regard themselves as impeccable Blairites were hedging their bets. He was a pluralist before his time, advocating tactical voting when it was a lot more unfashionable than it is now. He has never shrunk from a dialogue with the think tanks of the right. As a Christian, he shares Tony Blair's obsession with matching responsibilities to rights. He had already been thinking boldly about welfare reform when Labour was sleepwalking into its 1992 election defeat saddled with a huge and unreconstructed commitment to raising universal old age pensions and child benefit.

But then Harriet Harman, his immediate boss, isn't exactly a slouch when it comes to modernisation either. As shadow Chief Secretary after that same 1992 election she took, along with Gordon Brown, a lot of quite personal flak within the party for the ditching of cherished pledges as a result of ending the commitment to tax and spend. As shadow employment secretary she managed at once to make out a convincing case for the national minimum wage, while skillfully depressing expectations about how high it would be. And she showed a flinty toughness in facing down the outcry among Labour MPs over her decision to send her son to a selective grammar school.

So why don't these two politicians, both on the cutting edge of modernisation, see eye to eye quite as much as they both insist they do? They have no prior record of animosity. Harriet Harman was keen to have Field in her department, despite the fact that he was already enjoying a certain media stardom as Labour's most exciting philosopher of the welfare state. Harman accepted Field's requirements to be relieved of some quite onerous day-to-day responsibilities so that he could continue to do what he does best, which is thinking the unthinkable. She didn't, by all accounts, object when Field insisted on joining on her on the Welfare to Work cabinet committee, making their department the only one represented by two ministers, or that Field was given an immediate Privy Councillorship as a token of his seniority among ministers outside the Cabinet, or that he was granted, highly unusually among non-Cabinet ministers, membership of the public expenditure Cabinet Committee PX, or even that he felt he had, rather as Alan Clark did with Margaret Thatcher, a direct line to Number 10. And she has allowed him to speak his own mind.

Partly it's a matter of temperament. He is something of a political loner; and because Field is a good man, it sometimes

seems to outsiders as if those who get in his way are bad when they are just being practical. It would probably be unfair to describe someone as intellectually prolific as Field as a Mary surrounded by Marthas. But Harriet Harman, who enjoys the strong approval of both Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, has surrounded herself with an excellent team. John Denham and Keith Bradley, are two extremely able, if unflashy ministers, coping with a big workload. Relations between Field and his colleagues are better than they were before the Labour Party conference. But it must be irritating for other ministers in the department to read frequently that Field is the only DSS minister that matters.

But the real problem, I think, is to do with a combination of the ambitiousness of some of Field's ideas with the way his personal success or failure has come to be used as a totem, especially though not exclusively in the Conservative Party and right wing press. Of Blair's seriousness about welfare reform, Field shares, and played a big part in creating, the intellectual climate for, many of the ideas of Brown and Harman. But he is finding that the sort of wholesale institutional restructuring of the welfare state he envisaged in opposition is a great deal more difficult to put into practice in government.

Civil servants, whom Field sometimes seem to regard as obstructive as his Trotskyite opponents in Birkenhead, have had to tell him that his ideas are extremely, at least initially, expensive (DSS officials costed the whole Field package, when Labour was in opposition, at around £4bn). The introduction of a new social insurance scheme, based on compulsory payments to mutual funds for pensions and unemployment benefit, are very high. At the same time Field was against Gordon Brown's - also modernising - idea of an earned income tax credit to provide incentives for the lower paid, though he is said to have modified his opposition. He wanted to scrap the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme when the government is pledged to keep it. And so on.

There is a tendency, shown by newspapers like the *Sun* or *Daily Telegraph* who look, for whatever reasons, to Field to produce a holy grail, to forget that a great deal of welfare reform is already underway. Welfare to Work, of which Gordon Brown is the undisputed motor, is a big idea, involving a lot of "hard choices" about the payment of benefit, and based on the idea that jobs, even the lowest paid jobs, are the best way of improving the life chances of the poor and excluded; Harriet Harman's announcement yesterday of the first tentatively encouraging results from the New Deal for Lone Parents are but one aspect of that. From the pensions review to the controversial proposals on scrapping legal aid, savings are being identified which can fund improved education and NHS care.

If Field doesn't get all his own way, when the long awaited DSS Green Paper is published early next year, the Tories will no doubt claim it as evidence that Blair hasn't produced a big bang on welfare reform. That conveniently ignores the fact that no Tory government would have agreed to the transitional costs envisaged in Field's wholesale restructuring. As a thinker Field is an asset to the government; he has generated ideas that won't go away. But welfare reform cannot stand or fall by the immediate implementation of all of them. Sometimes the unthinkable can be undoable too.

Refusing to eat is not a disease, but a solution to an impossible dilemma



**SUZANNE
MOORE**
ANOREXIA

It was Wallis Simpson who said that you could never be too rich or too thin. Maybe this was just a light-hearted quip. It certainly doesn't seem to make much sense when we are confronted with the pictures of Samantha and Michaela Kendall, "the anorexic twins" who starved themselves to death. I find these pictures obscene, almost impossible to look at. Yet look at them we must if we understand the epidemic of eating disorder that affects so many women.

Suzie Orbach, who has done so much ground-breaking work on this subject, tells us that anorexics bring out feelings of fear, terror and anger in us all. A person who is starving herself to death confuses and frightens us. My own reaction, I have to say, is primarily one of anger. This is because when I look at these pictures I don't wonder what strange disease these poor women had that made them do this to themselves. I cannot regard them purely as freaks completely apart from supposedly normal women. Instead I can see how like the rest of us they are. Sick as it is, they have achieved the goal that is presented to all women in the Western world nearly all of the time - the goal of slenderness.

There are many different ways of understanding anorexia and the dominant model is a purely psychological and therefore individual one. Speaking of it as a "disease" which, in this awful case, most reports have done, in some ways lessens our responsibility. Some individuals get this horrible disease. Some recover. Some live with its disabling effects. Yet if anorexia is a disease we have to ask what form its transmission takes. If it is contagious how can we build up immunity against it? How come some people are more susceptible to it than others. How come a disease that was only thought to affect young women is now affecting young men as well? How can we prevent it rather than cure it?

We have come to see anorexia as a form of refusal, as a flight from femininity. Young, often very intelligent, women want to refuse the signs of mature female sexuality -

breasts, hips, menstruation. They want to keep their bodies at some pre-pubescent stage. This makes some sort of sense. It is in some perverse way a version of that much vaunted phenomenon. Girl power. It is an assertion of control over the world. It is a refusal of the ultimate symbol of love and nourishment - food itself.

Yet there are complications with such a view. Many anorexics are clearly exhibitionist and with their severely distorted body images believe themselves to be beautiful even as they waste away. The horror evoked by pictures of the Kendall twins is not only because of their skeletal appearance but because these were women who cared very much about what they looked like, who even as they were dying were heavily made-up and wearing what they considered to be attractive clothes. In the early Eighties some feminist writers viewed anorexia as resistance, as a kind of hunger-strike against a masculine conspiracy. The anorexic was in some warped way a of cultural heroine. As Sandra M Gilbert wrote about anorexia in 1981, "It is now a glamorous cross between two Victorian favourites, consumption and hysteria, up-

dated for a modern audience."

If young women were using the hunger-strike, that most devastating and desperate act of resistance left to political prisoners, then one has to ask what cause exactly these women were dying for. Do these deaths upset the massive dieting industry in any way? Do they stop and make us think about the constant images of idealised female bodies that the media force feeds us day after day?

Momentarily, of course we have our doubts. We worry about models being too skinny and girls as young as seven saying that they are too fat but ask most women what it is that want, they really, really want and they will tell you that their lives would be entirely different if they lost half a stone. Bridget Jones's obsession with her caloric intake makes us laugh precisely because we identify with it even as we recognise its silliness. It is women who police each others' appearance. When the Kendall twins lost three stone at 13 because they had been teased about being too fat, everyone told them how much better they looked. We can no longer simply blame this all on men or on some masculine idealisation of the female body that we have internalised.

The Kendall twins
Photograph: Chat/Rea

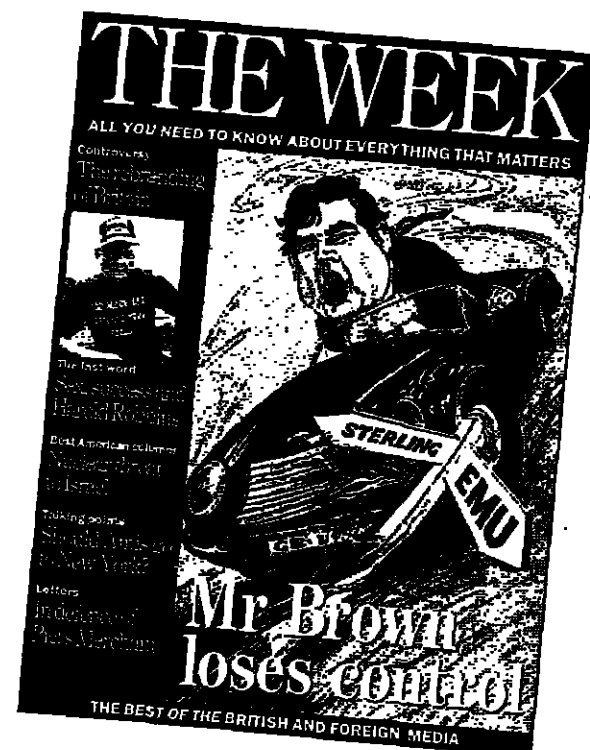


powerful and if we can't get there through diet and exercise, we will have bits of us sucked out, cut off, implanted, peeled away. It is a shock when our bodies change all by themselves, become older, fatter or thinner, which signifies the ultimate lack of control.

By fasting, and anorexia is a form of secular fasting, women regain much control and much attention. Instead of the traditional female role as nurturer, as care-giver, the anorexic appearance makes other people have to care for them, even if it is doomed to failure. The Kendalls were, at various stages, force-fed, sectioned and given drugs, tragically to no avail. Culturally, anorexia and bulimia are perfect solutions. They are entirely logical. A culture that tells us both to consume more and more and still be thin is an impossible one in which to live. To eat and yet show no signs of having eaten - the bulimic response - or to refuse food in order to be beautiful - the anorexic one - means that some women find it so impossible to live that they choose to die.

The cure for eating disorder lies not just in the hands of these sad individuals and the "experts" who try and help them. It lies surely in making the links between a culture of consumption and the contradictory demands this places on modern women. It means understanding a continuum between women like the Kendalls and women like ourselves. I fear that if we are unable to do this, our self-image will continue to be distorted. Changing the context in which this "disease" occurs may be harder than changing our bodies, but if women are going to die for somebody's sins, we might at least ask whose sins they are.

Digest the news



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All you need to know about everything that matters

Adrian Mitchell reflects on turning 65 today



Two books of collected poetry by Adrian Mitchell are published today: 'Heart on the Left' (Bloodaxe) and 'Balloon Lagoon: poems for children' (Orchard).

It's a bit sudden. For the past nine days I've been eight years old as I work on my stage version of *The Snow Queen* with my friends at the New York State Theatre Institute in Troy, New York. And here I sit, soon to fly home to London, in an apartment overlooking the incandescent trees of October and the broad-shouldered river Hudson.

It's odd, but I think, by realising that now I'm happy and now I love the world, I am moving towards a kind of ecstasy. This isn't a feeling that all's well on the planet, it's a distillation of all the love and beauty I've known from people and animals and birds and trees and pianos - all of which the composer Richard Peaslee and I have been trying to re-create in *The Snow Queen*.

This is a kind of celebration of whatever has been and continues to be good and brave in the world, but which never forgets, even in the moment of ecstasy, the dark side of the planet.

And so I write this poem for my friends and family.

FOR DICK AND DIXIE PEASLEE
(and all our friends at the NYSTI)

my friends and I
are trees in a wood
we glory in autumn's
goldenhood

on our branches sing
the owl and the lark
and the small deer trot
through the mist for our bark

and the river below
runs silvery-grey
with barges to carry
the timber away

and that voyage to the ocean
seems happy and good
to me and my friends
as we dance in our wood.

Kenneth Wood



Kenneth Maynard Wood, electrical manufacturer; born London 4 October 1916; managing director, Kenwood Manufacturing Co 1946-68; chairman, Dawson-Kelch Group 1972-80; chairman, Hydrotech Systems 1984-87; twice married (two sons, two daughters, and three stepsons); died Liphook, Hampshire 19 October 1997.

Kenneth Wood played a double role in the post-war food upheaval. First, he invented the 1950 kitchen gadget to which he gave his own name, the Kenwood Chef. Second, he founded one of the first of those institutions 1980s Foodies called "fat farms", Forest Mere Health Farm, Liphook (now sold to the Savoy Group).

The Kenwood Chef A700 was the chief tool of the Foodie revolution before the introduction in the 1970s of the domestic food processor (which allowed home cooks access to

most of the food preparation techniques of the professional kitchen). Introduced at the Ideal Home Exhibition in 1950, it sold (expensively) for £19 10s 10d and replaced a less sophisticated model Wood had introduced in 1948, for its heavy-duty electric motor could do most tasks from whisking egg whites to kneading bread dough. Other mixers could do that, however. The Kenwood's unique selling point was (to quote from the company's own publicity)

a deep secret within its construction... three extra concealed outlets located on the top and the front of the body which operate a range of additional attachments, thereby converting the Kitchen Machine into a Total Food Preparation Centre.

In fact, these culinary bells and whistles did little more than slice, shred and mince (though attachments would peel potatoes and open cans), jobs any cheap modern food processor will do, in addition to having the ability to pure in the same vessel. This last was always the design challenge for mixers.

Kenwood made its first blender as early as 1951, and in 1955 marketed a prototype food processor, called the "Roto Blend", but the problem of incorporating the pure function into a mixer was only solved by having a blender attachment - as it was so elegantly in the Chef redesigned in 1960 by Ken Grange of Pentagram. In the same year Wood introduced the first hand mixer with a liquidiser.

It was not until 1973 that the

variable speed electronic motor became a feature of the Chef. Soon, products such as the Magimix food processor were to come on the market. Their powerful motors could do every job the most advanced mixer could do (except for whisking egg whites) in a single, easy-to-wash workbowl. They threatened to make mixers obsolete; but the chunky yet streamlined good looks of the older machines have given them a place in modern domestic kitchens, as much for the statement they make about their owners as for the chores they will perform.

Eight million Kenwood Chefs have been sold, and there is a model on permanent display in the Science Museum. Ken Wood had started his company in 1946, to produce toasters. He got interested in mixers, bought a Sunbeam mixer, stripped it down, made design improvements to it and marketed the resulting model the A200 in 1948; but he quickly realised that it was not versatile enough to compete with imported machines. He took several of these to bits, and incorporated their best features in the resulting 1950 machine.

Part of his company's success was due to the pleasure Wood took in marketing the gadget, as he particularly enjoyed the travel that allowed him to export his machines back to the countries whose machines he had improved. The French were especially impressed by the rapidity with

which the machine could make mayonnaise. Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and Israel were all good markets, and Wood was happy on occasion to demonstrate the use of his machines himself. He was a millionaire by the age of 42.

Wood's father had died when he was 12, forcing his mother, whose own father was a founder of Maynards wine gums, to bring up her three children on £3 a week. Wood was at Bromley County School when he decided to go to sea at the age of 15; his mother attempted to discourage him by taking him to London Bridge and calling his attention to a very dirty ship, and asking him if he really wanted to spend the rest of his life in such conditions.

The play failed, and Wood joined SS Harlepool. The story is told that he once fell asleep on watch only to discover that the tramp steamer was going back in the direction it had come from. His 15-shilling bonus was docked for this, and he jumped ship in Brazil. Back in Cardiff he asked his mother for money so he could return home, but she refused, saying he had signed on for four years and must stick it out (his *Who's Who* entry says, laconically, "Cadet, Merchant Navy, 1930-34").

At 19 he enrolled in evening classes in electrical engineering and accountancy, worked in a radio repair shop. Wood showed his entrepreneurial bent by starting, aged 21, his own business in radio, tele-

vision and radar development, which he sold in 1939, joining the RAF where he transferred to work on radar at the Admiralty until 1946.

The wartime experience taught him about the benefits of factory automation, and of its potential for labour-saving on the domestic front. Money was a problem for the fledgling Kenwood Manufacturing Co Ltd, but he paid himself only £7 a week and borrowed most of the £400 he needed to make his toaster - a gadget common enough then in America and Europe, but rare in Britain.

There was a setback, however, in the 1960s, following a disastrous foray into the refrigerator market, and the company was easy prey for a raid by Thorn, which bought Kenwood in 1968. Wood didn't get on with the new owners, and he severed his ties with the company, welcoming the management buyout from Thorn EMI in 1989, and the subsequent stock-market flotation in 1992. Even at that date, the Kenwood Chef accounted for almost one-third of the group's total sales.

He lived not far from Havant and developed a golf course near there, where, running about in a golf buggy, he dispensed business advice to his friends. The Forest Mere Health Farm was also on his doorstep, and I once had the pleasure of a well-informed conversation with him about food fashions while we were in the sauna.

- Paul Levy

"shsh... we're giving Mummy a Kenwood Chef!"

Note to husbands: You can buy her a Kenwood Chef for an annual payment of only £3-15-0. Old debt easily settled in 3 years. THE PRESENT WITH A FUTURE.

A Kenwood Chef in your kitchen - and you say goodbye to all the hard, time-consuming part of making cooking meals. Just plug the motor and start kneading over the week to your Chef - your Kenwood Chef. Here's the power to do the jobs that are too hard for the other chefs of the kitchen.

This is a Kenwood Chef - and you say goodbye to all the hard, time-consuming part of making cooking meals. Just plug the motor and start kneading over the week to your Chef - your Kenwood Chef. Here's the power to do the jobs that are too hard for the other chefs of the kitchen.

Kenwood Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Dept. H55. Working, Surrey, England.

Photograph: Advertising Archives

Macdonald Critchley

Macdonald Critchley, neurologist; born 2 February 1900; Consultant Neurologist, King's College Hospital 1927-65; Consultant Physician, National Hospital, Queen Square 1927-65; Consulting Neurologist to the Royal Navy 1939-77; President, Association of British Neurologists 1962-64; President, World Federation of Neurology 1965-73; married first Edna Morris (deceased; two sons), second Eileen Hargreaves; died 15 October 1997.



Critchley: "Don't exercise"

The death of Macdonald Critchley represents the severance of the last link with the great 19th-century physicians at the National Hospital, Queen

Square, who had a defining role in the establishment of the speciality of neurology: he was the last House Physician to Risien Russell, who had been

the colleague of John Hughlings Jackson, Sir David Ferrier and Sir William Gowers.

Critchley was in their mould and the contribution for which he will be best remembered - the study of the way in which the higher functions of the brain are disturbed by disease - represented a continuation of the investigations of Jackson. Critchley's book *The Parietal Lobes* (1953) was a landmark. He explored the nature of the pathological defects in speech (aphasia) and reading (dyslexia) in adults; his pioneering work on developmental dyslexia in children was recognised by the Samuel Orton award in 1974.

But his interests were much broader. He wrote on dementia (including Alzheimer's and

Huntington's diseases) and, especially earlier in his career, made numerous contributions to the understanding of the disorders of the lower levels of the nervous system, including tetany, tumours in childhood, epilepsy, pain and migraine.

He also wrote extensively on non-medical topics. His books and later volumes of essays covered such disparate topics as shipwreck survivors, man's attitude to his nose, self-portraiture, *idiot savants*, gesture, Indian mythology and dance, and the trial of Neville George Cleveley Heath. He published in French and German and his English prose was elegant and restrained. It retained its clarity to the end: he signed the contract for his fine biography

of Hughlings Jackson, completed earlier this year, a matter of weeks before he died.

Elegance and restraint characterised the man too. He dressed immaculately in an understated way. He never made an unnecessary movement and counselled against exercise. I once heard him say to a postgraduate student who thought exercise might help a patient, "Doing that [as he moved his little finger slowly away from his ring finger and back again] measurably shortens your life." In his office in Queen Square House he sat surrounded by cushions in an armchair, at his desk, in the side shelves of which were memorabilia of Oscar Wilde, pieces from his collection of paste jars,

and curious objects collected in the Far East. An apparent aloofness of manner reflected a natural reticence which concealed from most his compassionate concern for others, derived from shrewd insights into their personalities.

He was a charismatic teacher and his demonstrations at Queen Square were hugely popular. They were remembered by students from all over the world who, as they became more senior, invited him to visit their departments. He greatly enjoyed these travels, which enriched his wide cultural interests.

Macdonald Critchley was educated at Christian Brothers' College, Bristol, and went to university at the age of 15. He graduated in medicine with

first class honours at 21, having spent a year as a private soldier during the First World War. He was appointed to the consultant staff of the National Hospital, Queen Square and to King's College Hospital at 27. Even more astonishing was his election, at 30, to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians. He gave the Goulstonian lecture at the college that year on the neurology of old age, and subsequently the Bradshaw and Croonian lectures and in 1966 the Harveian oration. In 1964 he became the first elected vice-president of the college.

His presidencies included the Association of British Neurologists and, from 1965 to 1973, the World Federation of Neurology, reflecting the wide

spread international admiration of his achievements. He was Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in 1965/66, a role in which his outstanding abilities as a public speaker were a source of delight. He was consultant to the Royal Navy from 1939 until 1977, and held the rank of Surgeon Captain RNVR 1939-46. He was Dean of the Institute of Neurology in 1948-53, and a member of the General Medical Council, 1957-73.

Honorary degrees, honorary memberships of foreign medical societies and academies, medals, named lectureships and visiting professorships came in profusion. He was appointed CBE in 1962.

- W. I. Macdonald

N. V. Linklater

Nelson Valdemar Linklater, arts administrator; born Bornbay 15 August 1918; Assistant Regional Director (Nottingham), Arts Council of Great Britain 1948-52; Assistant and Deputy Drama Director 1952-77; OBE 1967, CBE 1974; married 1944 Peggy Bolssard (two sons); died Oxford 19 October 1997.

Behind any organisation such as the Arts Council of Great Britain, with its necessarily high-profile chairman and chief executive, there are invariably dedicated and frequently self-effacing officers in responsible positions. It is their hard work that often provides the cutting edge as well as the essential back-up to the organisation's public operation. N.V. Linklater was just such a man.

After service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, and short periods with the Army Cinema Corporation and working in the theatre, virtually the whole of "Dick" Linklater's professional life was spent on the staff of the Arts Council, whose regional office in Nottingham he joined in 1948. Moving to London four years later he was subsequently promoted within the council's dra-

ma department, finally becoming its drama director in 1970.

Chief among the developments in the British theatre during that time were the abolition of theatre censorship, the revival of the Royal Court Theatre, which focused attention on theatre writing and led amongst much else to the rapid development of the Arts Council's own new drama schemes, and the creation of the National

Theatre. In all of these he played a significant part.

Much of his work however was concentrated on the regional companies that together made up that unique grid of repertory theatres that served its audiences so well throughout Britain over so many years. Linklater's belief in this system stemmed in part from his own early experience in the theatre in Nottingham, where the local

company's growing success led eventually to the building of a striking new theatre. Using this as an example, he continued to support other such worthwhile developments, realising that the public as well as the profession itself needed and deserved the best conditions possible in which to develop a fruitful relationship.

It was the first signs of a gradual erosion of the council's

much-valued independence and of its "arm's length" principle that prompted Linklater's decision to retire early in 1978.

He had always had a particular concern for stage design, having advanced early on an Arts Council scheme for young designers to gain practical experience in the theatre; in his retirement he developed his own latent talent for painting.

- Dennis Andrews



Linklater: cutting edge

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BETTS/ON. On 21 October 1997, in Derby, to Paula (nee Boys-Stones) and Mike, Timothy Paul, a brother for Robert.

DAVIES/MARLAND. To Stephen and April, a daughter, Eleanor Marland Davies, born on 16 October 1997, at St Mary's, Manchester. Our thanks to all the staff at St Mary's.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh attended a reception to promote the Anne Caledonia Force Association at the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Duchess of Edinburgh, attended a reception at the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Duchess of Edinburgh, attended a reception at the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh.

Changing of the Guard. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. The 7 Company Caledonia Force Association, the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Guard mounted by the Grenadier Guard.

Birthdays

Sir John Ayle, former director, Government Communications Headquarters, 58; Mr Nick Ainger MP, 48; Sir Geoffrey Baleman, ear, nose and throat surgeon, 91; Sir John Blalock, former civil servant, 67; Rear-Admiral John Carill, former secretary, Engineering Council, 72; Mr David Cope, former Master of Marlborough College, 53; Sir Robin Day, broadcaster, 74; Sir Thomas Dunne, Lord-Lieutenant, County of Hereford and Worcester, 64; Mr Henry Elwes, Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, 62; The Earl of Gainsborough, former President, Association of District Councils, 74; Professor Peter Gellhorn, composer, conductor and director, 85; Colonel Sir John Gilmour, former Lord-Lieutenant of Fife, 85; Air Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, 59; Sir Ralph Halpern, former chairman, Burton Group, 59; Mr Philip McLean, ambassador to Cuba, 59; Sir Keith Morris, former ambassador to Colombia, 63; Mr Colin Munro, ambassador to Croatia, 51; Sir Fred Pontin, founder of Pontin's holiday camps, 91; Professor W. Lindford Rees, psychiatrist, 83; Mr Allan Rogers MP, 66; Sir Peter Russell, professor of the Spanish language, 84; Lord Salisbury of Thurville, chairman and chief executive, J. Sainsbury, 57; Sir Robert Sainsbury, joint president, J. Sainsbury, 91; Mr Paddy Tipping MP, 48; Mr Bill Wyman, rock guitarist, 61.

Anniversaries

Births: Dame Agnes Sybil Thorndike, actress, 1882; Jackie

Coogan (Jack Leslie Coogan), actor, 1914. Deaths: Christian Dior, fashion designer, 1957. On this day: the United States started to blockade Cuba, 1962. Today is United Nations Day and the Feast Day of St Antony Claret, St Aretas, St Eleaban, St Everghius, St Felix of Thibaudi, St Maglorius or Maelor, St Martin of Mark, St Martin of Vertou, The Martyrs of Najran, St Proclus of Constantinople and St Senoch.

United Medical and Dental Schools

The United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals yesterday awarded Honorary Fellowships to: Mr Simon Angles, Dr James Birley CBE, Professor Ian Cameron, Professor Timothy Clark, Professor Sir John Croft, Professor Michael Hargreaves, Dr John McLennan CBE, Professor Jack Rowe, Professor Sir Eric Sorell, Dr Malcolm Goodby, Chairman of the UMDS Council of Governors, presided at the ceremony at Southwark Cathedral, London SE1. A reception was held afterwards in the Glaziers' Hall, followed by a dinner in the Governors' Hall at St Thomas' Hospital.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.54pm.

United Synagogue 020-343 9999. Federation of Synagogues 020-202 2265. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues 020-308 1463. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain 020-369 0731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation 020-229 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti) 020-328 1826.

LAW REPORT: 24 OCTOBER 1997

Expert evidence of psychiatric injury must be called

In a criminal trial for assault the prosecution must call expert psychiatric evidence where the victim's symptoms other than pain amounted to psychological illness or injury, and the pain experienced was the result of a non-physical assault.

Regina v Morris; Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Potter, Mrs Justice Ewbank and Mr Justice Forbes) 22 October 1997.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Clarence Barington Morris against his conviction on 24 September 1996 at Southwark Crown Court before Judge Butler QC and a jury of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Barry Kegan (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant, Timothy Barker (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Potter, giving the judgment of the court, said that

the case had arisen out of a course of conduct on the part of the appellant commonly known as "stalking". The actual bodily harm complained of did not comprise any direct physical injury, but the victim had given unchallenged evidence that by reason of the appellant's sinister and intimidating actions committed over a period of time she had suffered a variety of unpleasant nervous symptoms arising from fright and anxiety, including personality change and physical aches and pains.

The evidence of the victim's general practitioner had been read by agreement. She had said that the victim had complained of physical and nervous symptoms. She had prescribed medication to help her sleep. It was of some importance to note that the doctor was not qualified in psychiatry and purported neither to give evidence of a psychiatric nature nor as to the likely cause

or causes of the victim's complaints.

Before the trial started a joint application had been made by prosecution and defence for an adjournment in order for expert psychiatric evidence to be obtained as to the nature of the victim's symptoms as they did not appear to be physically based. The judge was referred to the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v Chun-Fook* [1994] 99 Cr App R 147, in which it had been said that where psychiatric injury was relied on as the basis of an allegation of bodily harm, the matter should not be left to be inferred by the jury from the general facts of the case but should be the subject of expert evidence.

The judge had refused the application, saying that it seemed perfectly plain that the victim could give an account of her symptoms, and that if the jury accepted her evidence,

they could say she had suffered actual bodily harm. He later rejected a submission of no case to answer on the same basis.

Chan-Fook had recently been approved by the House of Lords in *R v Burstow*; *R v Ireland* (Law Report, 30 July 1997). Counsel for the Crown had submitted, however, that the facts and nature of the evidence in that case were a world away from the present case. It was correct that in *Chan-Fook* the court had been dealing with facts which demonstrated no more than momentary fear or panic, and that the evidence in that case had not involved a situation where the psychiatric trauma experienced by the victim gave rise to symptoms of pain and physical discomfort.

It had been conceded for the appellant that the definition of actual bodily harm was wide enough to include pain or hurt such as headaches, vomiting and

stomach-aches which were not directly caused by physical trauma. It was, however, submitted that in such circumstances psychiatric considerations almost inevitably arose on the question of causation, and the need for expert evidence to prove psychiatric harm amounting to bodily injury should equally be applied to causation.

It seemed to the court that, following *Chan-Fook*, in the absence of psychiatric evidence supporting the prosecution case (1) that the victim's symptoms other than pain amounted to psychological illness or injury and (2) that the pains experienced were the result of the appellant's non-physical assault, the case should not have been allowed to go to the jury. That being so, and with some regret in the circumstances, the appeal would be allowed. There would, however, be a retrial.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Hong Kong crash sparks world-wide sell-off in markets

Stock markets plunged around the world yesterday after a catastrophic slump in Hong Kong sparked sharp falls in Europe and the US. Diane Coyle, Tom Stevenson and Stephen Vines tracked the shock wave across time zones.

The most serious stock market crisis in years started in the Far East yesterday and travelled west around the globe, shedding billions from the value of shares. Last night fears were mounting that the baton would be handed back to Asia to give investors another turbulent session today.

Throughout the day dealers feared the big one had arrived, although in most markets it was really more of a wobble than a crash. Only in Hong Kong did shares fall more than 10 per cent, with the declines in Europe well under half that.

In Japan, the Nikkei index fell 3 per cent, London's FTSE closed 157.3 points down, a similar percentage decline, and Wall Street was more than 2 per cent lower within minutes of opening. Other stock markets in Europe and Latin America dived too.

Investors rushed to the relative safety of bonds instead, taking long-term yields on gilts and US Treasury bonds lower yesterday. The dollar made its traditional safe-haven gains, but the pound weakened, falling 3 pence to DM2.89.

Recording its biggest points fall, the Hong Kong stock market yesterday plunged 1,211 points, knocking over 10 per cent off the price of shares in a single day. The carnage of the past week has seen share prices fall by almost 24 per cent and it is far from clear the end is in sight. Government-controlled China Telecom, which was 35 times oversubscribed, made its

market debut yesterday with an almost 10 per cent fall on its issue price, the first time a Chinese-backed issue has flopped.

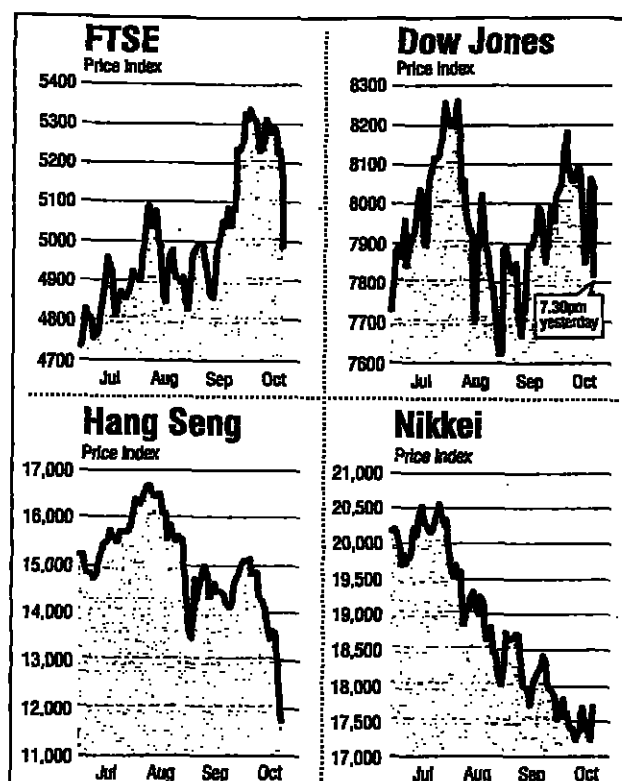
Some analysts view the market's collapse as more serious than the 1987 slump and the outbreak of jitters two years later when tanks rolled into Tiananmen Square to crush China's democracy movement. Share prices have fallen by more than one-third from their high point in August due to intense pressure on the Hong Kong dollar. Its peg to the US dollar looks vulnerable because of the battering other East Asian currencies have suffered in recent weeks.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) deployed its considerable muscle in the currency market yesterday, using its \$71.7bn war chest and pushing up overnight inter-bank interest rates to a staggering 150 per cent. Joseph Yam, its chief executive, could hardly contain his glee as he explained how the astronomical rise in inter-bank rates was going to burn speculators who had sold the Hong Kong dollar short, in anticipation of buying at a lower price.

Forced to obtain Hong Kong dollars to square their positions, speculators drove it to a record high in the very narrow band against which it trades with the US dollar. The two currencies are linked at a fixed rate of HK\$7.8 to the US dollar, moving marginally around the peg. Fears that the peg will be broken were addressed head-on yesterday by Donald Tsang, the financial secretary. At a hastily convened press conference he said: "Our first priority is to defend the dollar at its current parity. There is no reason for us to fall."

The 14 year-old link to the US dollar is underpinned by the third-highest level of foreign reserves in the world. It is considered near heresy to question its desirability.

But other regional currencies took fright yesterday. The Sin-



gapore dollar slumped to a 46-month low, while the Malaysian currency dropped to its lowest point since it was floated 24 years ago.

With Hong Kong's economy in good shape, optimists are saying the selling has been overdone. John Schofield of Nava Securities said: "I think the prospects are good. This has all the hallmarks of a classic selling climax. I wouldn't be surprised to see a rebound tomorrow."

London took its cue from Hong Kong's overnight collapse, with the FTSE 100 index falling 222 points in early afternoon trading after Wall Street also opened nervously. Prices recovered in the final two hours of trading, closing 157.3 down at 4991.5, but it was another nerve-jangling session.

Dealers continued to complain about the volatility being caused by the Stock Exchange's new automated system. With the Sets order-driven computer only four days old, traders

warned that the gyrations that have characterised this week's dealings were here to stay.

The fall in the FTSE 100 index of around 3 per cent was large by British standards, but was in line with declines in France's CAC index and Germany's Dax, as all European markets suffered from the Hong Kong backlash.

"We're in a new environment and we are moving closer to Europe," said the head of UK equity trading at one top investment bank in London. "We haven't got the market-makers any more who would have smoothed out some of the peaks and troughs."

Sets, which replaced the old quote-driven system for trading shares at the beginning of the week, has come in for widespread criticism and has failed to secure half of all FTSE 100 trades on any day so far this week.

Yesterday's volatile trading showed another characteristic

of the new system - big jumps in the value of the index as basket trades allow dozens of shares to be sold or bought in an instant. These sorts of trades can send waves of red or blue flooding across trading screens as prices fall or rise.

"A lot of people are unhappy about this erratic market," said another head of equity trading. "We are left wondering if this is what the new world is all about. An orderly market is not one in which basket trades can have such an impact."

The Stock Exchange warned that the new system might increase volatility, but it could not have foreseen the combination of events - worries over EMU and the Hong Kong crash - that have unsettled markets since Monday.

In the US the Dow Jones index lost as much as 229 points to 7,805 by early afternoon before staging a partial recovery. But, like London and Frankfurt, it broke a psychological barrier when it fell below the totem 8,000 level. Some commentators expected the shock wave to wash over the US.

"There will be no significant crack in the US stock market. The contagion only affects high-risk markets," said Brian Fabbri of Paribas in New York.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist at London Bond Broking, was less upbeat, seeing the collapse in world share prices yesterday as the "first act in a drama that will take weeks or months to unfold". The silver lining was that the Federal Reserve might become less inclined to raise interest rates next month.

Others saw yesterday's drama as the start of a long-anticipated crash. Andrew Smithers of Smithers & Co said: "We have markets at ludicrous levels on a world-wide basis. Wall Street is more overpriced than in 1929. This might be the trigger for a crash."

Outlook, page 25
Market report, page 27



Panic as investors monitor collapsing share prices on the Hang Seng at a bank in Hong Kong. The stock market fell 2,637 points at one stage. Photograph: Garrigo Hol/Reuter

Dow 'correction' fuels fears of investor complacency

The US markets plunged yesterday, but less dramatically than anywhere else in the world, prompting concerns that many US investors were deluding themselves by thinking the US equity market was invincible.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged by as much as 229 points by the early afternoon. Even so, traders said investors were not panicking and the drop was an orderly correction, not a crash.

"Although the Dow is down, the US markets are decidedly less stressed than the European and Asian markets," said Alan Ackerman, chief equity strategist at Fehsestock and Co.

"Ultimately a recovery looks likely. On balance portfolio managers seem to be lining up their ducks to buy on further weakness," he added.

However, many top investments managers and analysts were becoming increasingly nervous about the general complacency in the market.

"I believe there is a lot of complacency, especially in the US and Latin American markets," said Hari Harharan, a highly respected fund manager and managing director and head of Santander Bank's investment arm New World Investments in New York.

"I think this complacency is misplaced because 60 per cent of the world's population who live in Asia have just lost 20 to 25 per cent of their net worth in the last month and if we pretend that doesn't have a significant impact globally, in terms of demand, then we are deluding ourselves."

Michael Metz, chief equity strategist at Oppenheimer Company, said yesterday's world-wide market fall signalled "an end to the bull market" and the end to what he termed the "new paradigm that you never have a problem with inflation, interest rates or earnings momentum..."

Mr Metz said: "Today's events highlight the risks in markets, the volatility and I think it signals a slowdown in Asia and also a change in mon-

VIEW FROM THE UNITED STATES

etary policy in the West (where neither the Fed nor the Bundesbank will raise rates)." He urged investors to move into bond funds.

Mr Harharan argued that the drop in net worth of major Asian investors would have a huge impact on global liquidity conditions, which have been near perfect for now for several years and the reason behind soaring bond and equity markets world-wide.

Nevertheless, US investors generally seemed to believe that yesterday's fall was just another roller-coaster day that will provide opportunities to buy in the long run. "We have a bullish attitude in the US market which will not be affected by this shock," said Phil Roth, chief technical market analyst at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in New York.

"I am not sure the spill over will last more than a day. People will say 'gee this doesn't have anything to do with the US,' and will start buying again."

Providing a market floor was the world-wide flight to quality into the US Treasury market, which yesterday boosted the 30-year Treasury bond price by more than point by lunchtime, giving it a yield of around 6.34 per cent. There were also hopes that the US Federal Reserve will now not raise rates at its next meeting on 12 November, for fear of upsetting international markets.

Even the bulls, however, were yesterday recommending investors to at the least increase their cash positions and at most move money into bond funds.

"My recommendation would be to keep cool, keep calm and keep cash," said Mr Ackerman.

- Danielle Robinson

Germany and France caught up in the wave

Shares fell sharply in both Germany and France as the shock waves from Hong Kong continued to ripple around the globe. French exporters of luxury goods and German construction companies were especially hard hit as investors worried that asset price falls in the Far East would start to affect the real economy as well.

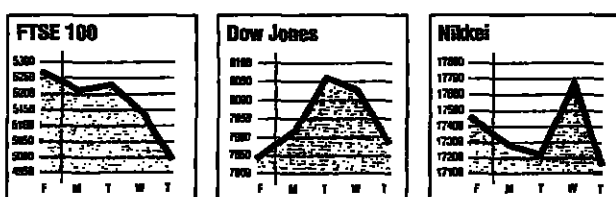
As in London, the fact that the early afternoon decline on Wall Street was not as bad as feared lifted French shares off their lows. The CAC index in Paris closed 101.1 points lower at 2,856.87, having been as low as 2,827 at one stage. Dealers said the rest of the session on Wall Street and overnight trade in the Far East would set the tone for the final session of the week.

Sharp falls were recorded by LVMH, down 7 per cent, Remy Cointreau, Borel and Clarins. Others included banks with an Asian exposure, such as Credit Lyonnais and Societe Generale.

In Frankfurt, German shares closed 4.5 per cent lower, with the Dax index falling below the psychologically important 4,000 barrier at 3,977.26. It was the biggest fall of the year for the German bourse. But analysts said the decline was likely to be short term and the bullish tone of the German market had not yet disappeared.

One said: "These events will have some effect during the next few days or weeks, but this is still a bull market and I believe that after all these things it will rise again."

STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones index and graph in Spain

Indices	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4991.50	-157.30	-3.06	5330.80	3900.40	3.46
FTSE 250	4827.00	-89.80	-1.82	4950.30	4348.10	3.25
FTSE 350	2417.70	-70.00	-2.81	2555.30	1949.20	3.44
FTSE All Share	2367.90	-65.82	-2.71	2492.41	1925.79	3.42
FTSE SmallCap	2377.5	-27.90	-1.16	2406.20	2128.40	3.08
FTSE RealEstate	1295.9	-15.90	-1.21	1348.50	1198.70	3.23
FTSE AIM	1010.5	-3.20	-0.33	1138.00	700.80	0.97
Dow Jones	7889.27	-148.38	-1.82	8259.51	5972.73	1.70
Nikkei	1751.55	-58.95	-3.03	2148.25	1724.70	0.54
Hang Seng	1042.80	-121.47	-10.41	1163.27	1163.77	0.38
Dax	3977.26	-194.19	-4.66	4438.33	2659.25	2.01

INTEREST RATES



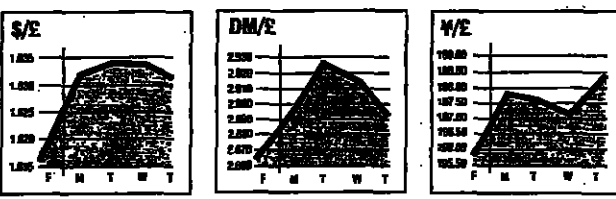
Money Market Rates	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	7.25	1.29	7.56	1.13
US	5.51	0.28	0.06	0.22
Japan	0.23	0.03	0.08	0.04
Germany	3.68	0.57	4.21	0.97

Bond Yields	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	Long bond	1 yr
UK	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47
US	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47
Japan	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47
Germany	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47	6.47

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Flextech 571.00 20.00 3.36	Inchcape 244.50 -38.00 -15.45
Hanson 312.00 3.00 0.97	Nat Power 488.00 -48.50 -9.94
Hols Royce 227.50 2.00 0.88	Brit Energy 370.00 -38.50 -9.86
Hama 190.50 1.00 0.77	HSBC Hldgs 1531 -149 -8.87

CURRENCIES



Pound	at 10pm	Change	1 yr Ago
Dollar	1.6321	-0.14c	1.5988
D-Mark	2.8902	-2.32c	2.4313
Yen	198.55	+11.30	180.32
S franc	102.20	-0.10	88.80

Dollar	at 10pm	Change	1 yr Ago
Sterling	0.6127	+0.05p	0.6255
D-Mark	1.7709	-1.25p	1.5201
Yen	121.55	+10.92	112.83
S franc	105.50	+0.10	97.40

OTHER INDICATORS	at 10pm	Change	1 yr Ago
Brnt Oil (\$)	19.58	-0.28	23.95
Gold (\$)	323.05	0.00	383.75
Silver (\$)	5.08	0.11	4.98
Base Rates	7.00	5.75	

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

Banks were filled to bursting with anxious customers

When the Hong Kong stock market crashed down 2,637 points at one stage yesterday, practically everyone in the territory knew about it. Banks in the financial centre were filled to bursting with anxious customers watching a host of flickering stock exchange monitors and calling out stock codes in the hope that someone near the controls would summon up the price chart for shares of interest to them.

On the streets people were obsessively punching codes into their pager machines which in Hong Kong carry stock market information. Radio news bulletins, dominated by market updates, were listened to with the intensity usually reserved for nations at times of war.

From the high-decibel restaurants serving dim sum lunches to the relative quiet of government buildings, there was but one subject of conversation. More Hong Kong people play the stock market and other financial markets than practically any other place on earth. When the markets shook, as they did yesterday with a vengeance, everyone was talking about it.

"The market, clearly at the moment, is not for the faint-hearted," said the ever cool and composed Acting Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Anson Chan, before disappearing into the bowels of the legislature yesterday afternoon.

"I advise everybody to stay calm," she said looking directly into the cameras.

Her advice appears to have been heeded because although a great many smaller investors have lost considerable sums of money, the collapse of 1997 is nothing like the events which followed Black Monday in 1987 when a great many people were left destitute. Banks have become

VIEW FROM THE FAR EAST

more cautious and investors who were hit in 1987 and delivered a body blow after the Tiananmen Square massacre two years later have learned that a higher degree of caution is required.

Yet the lure of big bucks made just three months ago tempted many to throw caution to the winds. There was a frenzy for buying red chips, the shares in companies linked with China. Now many of the red chips have tumbled by as much as 80 per cent.

Hong Kong investors are also intensely interested in currency speculation. Practically no one here holds their money only in the local currency. Reports of pressure on the Hong Kong dollar sent bank customers scurrying to their branches to turn local deposits into US dollar holdings. The mighty Hong Kong Bank was so alarmed by this flurry of switching that it stepped in to stop holders of time deposits recalling them before their due date. Normally this is allowed once a penalty has been paid. Any hint of a change in the rule of the game goes down very badly in these parts.

Rumour is now the order of the day. The suicide of a British finance manager, reported yesterday, was seized upon as evidence of desperation setting in but it appears this had more to do with reasons other than the state of market. The uncharted fear is that the market is heading into uncharted territory.

- Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

Hang Seng drop 'a short-term phenomenon'

The chief executive of Hong Kong, Chee Hwa Tung, yesterday sought to reassure British companies with interests in the former colony that the stock market crash would not affect its economic management or determination to maintain the peg with the US dollar.

The pledge was made at a private breakfast meeting at the Dorchester with eight leading businessmen whose companies have extensive operations in Hong Kong.

Mr Tung told the group that the crash in the Hang Seng index, which suffered its biggest one-day fall yesterday, was a "short-term phenomenon" which would not undermine the strength of the local economy or Hong Kong's economic and political relations with China.

He assured the businessmen that the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the US dollar remained "sacrosanct" and that interest rate policy would continue to be used to defend the peg robustly.

The 75-minute breakfast meeting was organised by the Confederation of British Industries

and British Airways. The businessmen attending were Bob Ayling, chief executive of BA, Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, John Manser, chairman of Robert Fleming, Sir Evelyn Rothschild of NM Rothschild, Philip Cushing, chief executive of Inchcape, Henry Keswick, of Jardine Lloyd Thompson, Duncan Bluck, a director of John Swire and Sons, the holding company for Cathay Pacific, and Hugh Merrill, director of strategic relations at British Telecom.

Inchcape and Standard Chartered were two of the companies whose share prices were worst hit by the plunge in the Hang Seng.

One of those present said the group subjected Mr Tung to "a fair amount of healthy questioning" about the situation in Hong Kong and came away reassured. Mr Tung said there was a tremendous determination to maintain the exchange rate despite the devaluations that other countries in the region such as Singapore have been forced into.

Abbey finance chief to replace Birch

Abbey National played safe yesterday by appointing its finance director as chief executive elect. Ian Harley, who has been with Abbey for 20 years, will replace Peter Birch at next February's annual meeting.

Tom Stevenson, financial editor, heard the new chief's strategy.

Abbey National held out the promise of a £500m share buy-back yesterday as it named finance director Ian Harley as successor to Peter Birch, its chief executive for the past 14 years and the architect of the bank's pioneering demutualisation in 1989. Mr Birch is retiring at next February's annual meeting.

Mr Harley, who has been with Abbey for 20 years, promised evolution not revolution during his tenure. He said the bank would consider handing surplus capital back to shareholders and that a planned reduction in the equity supporting its balance sheet would leave it with £500m of spare cash.

The chief executive elect restated Abbey's determination to retain its independence but said it remained interested in acquiring companies in the life insurance sector as it continued to reduce its dependence on its core savings and loans business. Currently, 50 per cent of Abbey's business is in non-traditional businesses, such as insurance, and it forecast that rising to 60 per cent.

Spelling out his strategy yesterday, Mr Harley said Abbey would continue to focus on retail banking in the UK through a network of around 750 branches, although he didn't rule out introducing telephone banking on the Continent. Other priorities included increasing efficiency and Mr Harley forecast a 25 to 30 per cent reduction in the unit costs of Abbey's mortgage processing.

There would be an emphasis, Mr Harley said, on partnership. That would mean increased staff share ownership and would probably include discounts on mortgages to reward shareholder customers.

Only days after Richard Branson's Virgin Direct launched a revolutionary new mortgage-based account, Abbey admitted yesterday it

had a lot to learn from the retail banking sector's new entrants. He questioned, however, whether brands such as Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer were really suitable backing for a wide range of financial services.

"There is a huge difference between selling a lettuce or some other easily consumable item and a pension which implies a 25-year relationship with the customer," he said, warning of the dangers of stretching retail brands too far.

Abbey said it had seen an improvement during the third quarter in its position in traditional mortgage and savings markets, where it had been hit during the first half by the lock-in periods imposed by demutualising building societies. In the first six months it had just 0.6 per cent of new lending, a fraction of its natural market share of almost 15 per cent.

The bank forecasts growth of around 6 per cent in the stock of mortgages this year, with housing market transactions rising by 16 per cent to 1.4 million. Although mortgage arrears had increased marginally since June, the number of cases of long-term arrears of six months or more had fallen by almost 10 per cent.

Requirement to join ERM debated in Whitehall

A senior Treasury official said yesterday that it was "most unclear" how to interpret the requirement in the Maastricht Treaty that would be members of the single currency should be in the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM). The requirement is seen as a potential stumbling block to British membership of economic and monetary union.

Sir Nigel Wicks, director of international finance and second permanent secretary at the Treasury, told a conference there had been big changes to the ERM, which sterling fell out of five years ago, since the convergence criteria were enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty in February 1992. Sir Nigel steered away from any comment on when the UK would join up, in light of the speculation in the run-up to a statement in Parliament on the issue by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Gas competition extended

Domestic gas customers in the North of England will be able to choose their supplier from February under proposals from Ofgas, the industry watchdog. On 27 February competition would be extended to 2.8 million households from Cumbria to North Yorkshire. A further 2.9 million homes would be able to choose their supplier from Cheshire to South and West Yorkshire from 27 March. From next month competition will start in Scotland and the North-east of England.

ITC proposes Ch4 changes

The Independent Television Commission (ITC) has announced the proposed revisions to the Channel 4 licence which its says will broaden and strengthen the channel's public service commitments. The proposed changes include the reinforcement of Channel 4's commitment to innovation, increases in original production and programme commissions outside London, a reduction in repeats and further investment in film production. Closing date for comments in the public consultation process is 5 December.

Smith's strategy under fire

WH Smith's new strategy to demerge its Waterstone's book-selling business and sell its Virgin-Our Price music division is a mistake, according to retail consultants Verdict Research. It says Smith's should "ruthlessly exploit" its buying power in books and music through its ownership of both specialist chains and its core business. Verdict's views were included in its new report on Confectioners, Tobacconists and Newsagents. The report states that the CTN sector is in crisis with 1,100 outlets closing in 1996 and a further 10,000 at risk as competitors such as supermarkets move into the market.

Lanica to discuss relisting

Lanica Trust, the quoted vehicle of Andrew Regan, who made a £1bn bid for the Co-op earlier this year, is to discuss the relisting of the company's shares with the Stock Exchange.

LucasVary to buy Varga

LucasVary, the Anglo-American engineering group, is in talks to buy the remaining two thirds of the Brazilian brake manufacturer, Freios Varga. It already has a 34 per cent stake in the family business which is the market leader in Brazil. Analysts estimate the deal could be worth around £200m.

Reuters hit by sterling

The strong pound continues to affect the performance of Reuters, the media and on-line information group. Currency factors were blamed for a 3 per cent fall in third-quarter revenue to £713m. Stripping out the effect, revenues were 8 per cent ahead.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Adrian Corporation (P)	172m (135m)	5.03m (3.22m)	9.7p (8.4p)	2.5p (-)
Petrom Hodge (P)	7.2m (7.3m)	-0.09m (0.003m)	-0.38p (-)	nil (-)
Parasolator (P)	13.2m (8.1m)	0.72m (-1.16m)	1.42p (-4.62p)	1.22p (1.22p)
MCI (US)	3.3m (2.7m)	611m (125m)	74.9p (9.7p)	nil (-)
Lundbeck (P)	14.7m (12.0m)	1.88m (1.58m)	8.8p (7.4p)	2.33p (2.33p)
Polishman Holdings (P)	27.9m (25.6m)	7.8m (4.2m)	7.3p (1.7p)	1p (0.86p)
(P) - Final (P) - Interim (US) - Third quarter				

Electricity Pool under review

The Government yesterday signalled its intention to reform the Electricity Pool, the wholesale power market, after criticism of energy prices from customer groups.

Shares in the two biggest generators, National Power and PowerGen, plunged on the news. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports.

repeatedly blamed for pushing up electricity prices.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, was charged with working out the arrangements for the review and is expected to report back to Mr Battle by Christmas. But the investigation is expected to take at least six months and DTI sources indicated it could take three or four years before any changes were implemented.

Shares in National Power fell 9 per cent on yesterday's announcement, one of the biggest falls on the market. They ended down 48.5p at 488p. PowerGen shares were 53p lower, at 678p.

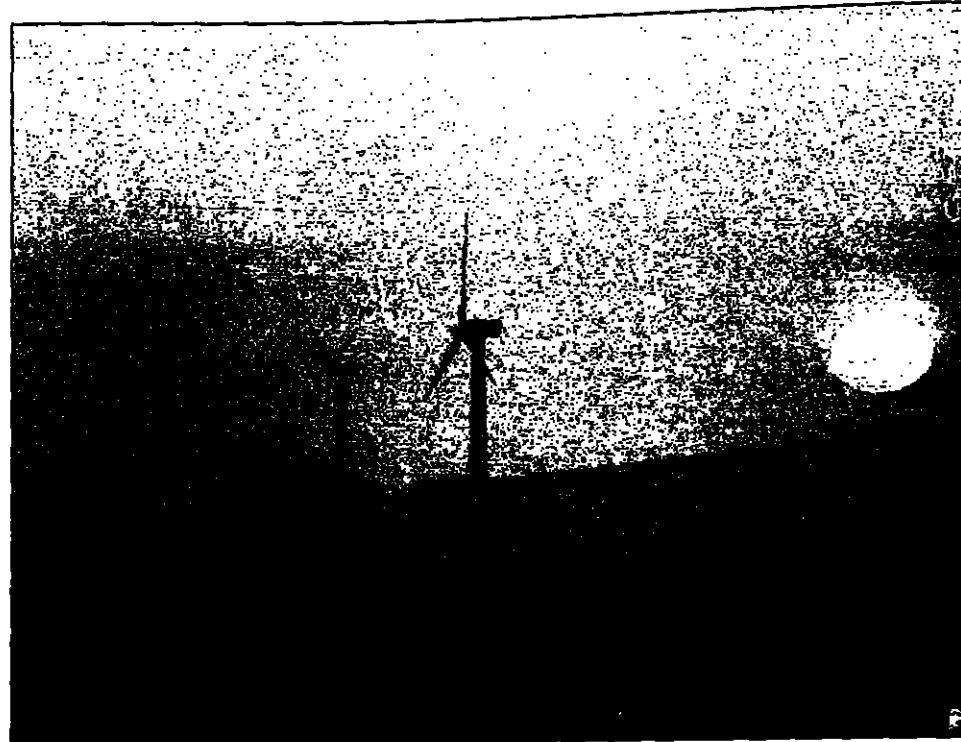
Last year the generators were forced to sell power stations to Eastern Group after the Professor Littlechild threatened a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation. A cap was imposed on generation prices between 1994 and 1996, but it was removed after the plant sales.

The two privatised generators, which together account for

about 40 per cent of power generation, have been attacked for allegedly abusing their influence on Pool prices, which determine the cost of wholesale electricity paid by the regional power companies. Mr Battle acknowledged that though a flood of independent gas generation projects had come on stream, they had done little to inject competition into Pool pricing.

He said that there was still criticism that the pool was a "suppliers' club" in which consumers cannot participate directly. He continued: "We need the sort of system in which everyone can have total confidence, particularly when electricity demand is at a peak."

The Pool said it would work with Ofwat, the electricity watchdog, to prevent the review from disrupting next year's introduction of domestic competition. National Power said it had expected a review and would support "serious suggestions" for improvements.



Renewable source: some of the money could go into wind farms Photograph: John Voos

Eastern gives EcoPower to its customers

More than 3 million electricity customers will be able to fund green energy projects under a special tariff scheme announced yesterday by Eastern Group, the country's largest regional electricity company.

Eastern, part of Energy Group, also made a commitment to source 10 per cent of its generating capacity from renewable energy sources, such as wind, wave or solar power, by 2010. The group, which is the UK's third-largest non-nuclear generator, admitted that none of its power was currently produced from renewable sources.

The green billing scheme, called EcoPower, gives customers the opportunity to pay an extra contribution on top of

their bills towards renewable projects, which will match with the same figure from the company. The contribution will be 5 or 10 per cent of an average £260 bill.

Hailing the scheme as a first for the industry, Eastern said consumer research had suggested between 3 and 5 per cent of its customers would become involved. It would mean up to 150,000 Eastern customers could take part, netting up to £1m for renewable projects over two years. Yesterday's launch was supported by high-profile environmental campaigners Johnathon Porritt, head of Forum for the Future, and Patrick Green, chairman of Friends of the Earth.

The cash will be put into a charitable trust fund, administered independently of the company.

Eastern said just one member of the trust, out of a board of around six, would be an Eastern employee and none of the money would be ploughed into Eastern-funded projects.

The trust will decide how to spend the money, which could be invested in further environmental research alongside generation projects.

The spokesman denied that the funds would be too small to produce significant benefits: "This is not a gimmick. Our research shows customers are willing to support it."

- Chris Godsmark

BT talks with rival bidders for MCI

Senior British Telecom executives yesterday started talks with WorldCom and GTE, the two phone groups bidding to take over MCI, BT's long-standing merger partner.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT chairman, and Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, were in the US for the discussions, which will include Bernard Ebbers, WorldCom's chief executive, and Chuck Lee, chairman of GTE. Though BT has refused to admit outright defeat in its attempt to buy MCI, the UK group was hoping to salvage a close three-way alliance if the GTE won the bidding.

Both GTE and WorldCom yesterday revealed confidentiality agreements with MCI, which will stay in force until they come back with formal bids. WorldCom is offering MCI investors \$30bn in shares, while GTE last week moved in with a \$28bn all-cash bid. BT's revised merger values MCI at \$24bn.

BT was obliged to speak to both bidders, though the group is known to prefer a merger between GTE and MCI. The discussions, which were said to be

at a "very preliminary stage," would centre on BT's role in the company if one of the rival bids went ahead.

The UK management was concerned to preserve BT's Concert joint venture in the international business phone market, in which MCI has a 25 per cent stake. A full-scale three-way merger with GTE and MCI has been rejected as highly unlikely, but BT is seeking to secure a minority stake in one of the rival mergers.

It also emerged that MCI is unlikely to ask its shareholders to vote on BT's offer, despite having planned an extraordinary meeting for next month. Under US takeover rules MCI would have to formally recommend BT's lower bid to shareholders, a move which would prove impossible for directors.

MCI yesterday unveiled a \$515m restructuring provision, plunging the long-distance giant into losses of \$182m in the third quarter of the year. Analysts said the charge was slightly lower than expected, though growth in MCI's core long-distance business remained weak.

- Chris Godsmark

Rail regulator backs down over fines

The position of John Swift QC, the rail regulator, looked increasingly precarious last night as it emerged that he had backed down over proposals to penalise train companies over the poor performance of the telephone inquiry service.

Mr Swift was to fine companies £150,000, after they had failed to answer nearly 13 calls out of every 100 made to the service. Instead, he has accepted the industry's argument that the Southall train disaster, where a high-speed passenger train ploughed into a freight wagon, produced an excessive number of calls. This reduced the fine to £100,000.

"We expect the system to have better contingency plans next time," said a spokesman for Mr Swift.

Whitehall sources have made it clear they considered this as an acid test. Mr Swift cannot be sacked. But his contract expires late next year and officials have made it clear the franchising director - the other train regulator - may take the lead in some instances.

- Randeep Ramesh

Posthouse first for all the right reasons

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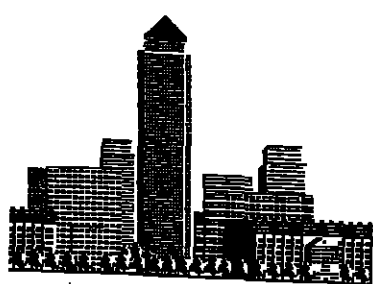
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OUTLOOK ON THE DAY THE MARKETS WOBBLED AND AN END TO TAX-FREE REDUNDANCY

Why world stock markets have further to fall

In the end it was more a case of a bad tremor for world equity markets than the full-blown earthquake everyone had feared it might be while eating their cornflakes yesterday morning. There were some big falls, both in Europe and on Wall Street, but nothing remotely to compare with the sell off in Hong Kong overnight, or with Black Monday ten years ago. Are markets right to be so sanguine about what's going on in the Far East or is this a case of a hurricane yet to hit?

Nobody, apart from maybe the media, enjoys a stock market crash very much. They are painful, beastly things, affecting not just the professional traders and big international investors that dominate the world's financial markets, but anyone who pays into a pension scheme, saves through a PEP, processes a mortgage endowment policy, or has participated in the privatisations of the last 15 years. Worse, because they go hand in hand with a collapse in investment confidence, they can accentuate a recession in the making, or as in the case of the crash of 1929, lead to something more horrible still, a depression.

So there is every reason, particularly when the good times are rolling as they are in the US and Britain right now, to disbelieve the doomsters who point to sky high valuations and rant on about dangerous speculative bubbles and the like. Furthermore, what is happening in Hong Kong and the rest of the Pacific Rim may indeed be largely irrelevant in the scale of things to the US. Fast growing though these economies have been, they account for only

a small proportion of world trade. Even if they were wiped from the face of the planet, it would not make a huge amount of difference to anyone outside the Far East itself.

There are good reasons for believing that what's happened in Hong Kong over the last week has more to do with the region's own local difficulties than anything wider. Primarily it is about a flood of redemptions from international investors keen to reduce their exposure to the region. Because the Hong Kong currency is still pegged to the US dollar, and the former colony's stock market is the largest, most open and liquid in the region, the Hang Seng is proving particularly vulnerable to this process. This in turn is putting pressure on the dollar parity itself, further accentuating the dash from the region as investors attempt to bail out before the Hong Kong monetary authority is forced to devalue.

So just the tail end of the Asian markets crisis then? There are two reasons for believing it may be rather worse than that. The first relates to the particular nature of the crisis in Hong Kong. Whatever this special administrative region does, it is heading for trouble. If it defends the dollar parity to the last, as it says it will and with its giant reserves of foreign currency is perfectly capable of doing, then it may be condemning itself to near recessionary conditions. Hong Kong cannot stand by while its major competitors in the region devalue by 30 per cent and expect to be unaffected by it.

Sky high interest rates to defend the currency would compound the effects of an uncompetitive exchange rate. Hong Kong

could find itself in much the same position as Britain while it was a member of the ERM. With so much of the boom in China being fed by strong economic growth in Hong Kong and the regions around it, this could have a knock effect into the rest of the People's Republic.

The other scenario is scarcely more appetising - that Hong Kong follows the lead of Taiwan, which was equally capable of defending its dollar parity but chose to follow its neighbours into devaluation. The effect on international confidence in the former colony of this course of action would be catastrophic, for one of the main reasons the place attracts foreign capital is that investors believe there to be no foreign exchange risk. In other words, Hong Kong is in a no win position. Of the two scenarios, the recessionary effect of clinging to an unsustainably high exchange rate looks marginally the worse, for the knock on into the world economy could be significant.

The other reason why Hong Kong is important is that it shows just how quickly sentiment can change in a market which everybody thinks can only head upwards. The loss of investment confidence in Hong Kong could prove a harbinger of things to come in the US, where the evidence of a dangerous speculative investment bubble in the making is at least as strong as it was before the crash in the Far East.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has already issued Wall Street with two yellow cards. So far its response has been unpolitely to ignore him. Unfortunately he has good reason to be con-

cerned. Wall Street is running out of control, fed by some clearly unrealistic expectations of economic and corporate earnings growth. If the market crashes, then the dangers are only too apparent. Investment grinds to a halt and consumer confidence disappears with it in a puff of smoke.

Nobody is suggesting that we are staring into the abyss of another 1929, or the bear market of the early 1970s. But things could be about to get very ugly out there.

Bad news for the average man

Governments fiddle with tax breaks at their peril, particularly ones that benefit the average man or woman rather more than the fat cat executive. When the tax break in question is one designed to soften the blow of being thrown onto the dole queue, the dangers of fiddling around are even greater.

The High Court's decision to uphold a ruling that termination payments to two former EMI executives were liable to tax may have resulted in self-congratulation at the Inland Revenue. But for hundreds of thousands of employees facing the axe and indeed for thousands who have recently received their redundancy cheques minus tax, the ruling is bad news. The Revenue realised some years ago that the practice of sending dismissed employees on their way with payment in lieu of notice (PILON) was depriving it of a large slug of income since the convention was that lump sum payments up to £30,000 were tax free.

Recently, however, the tax man, supported by the Special Commissioners, has decided that PILON is taxable since it makes up part of an employee's emoluments. The effect is stark. Whereas before an employee who received, say a PILON of £30,000 and a lump sum of £10,000 to reflect years of service would have been taxed only on the £10,000, now he or she is liable to pay tax on the £30,000. At the top marginal rate of tax the difference could be £12,000 - a lot for a middle-aged, middle-ranking manager facing the dole and little prospect of re-employment. By contrast there is little if any effect for a very high earning senior executive, since his lieu of notice payment is likely to be vastly outweighed by his lump sum reward for failure.

Employers can avoid deducting the tax by deliberately breaking the employee's contract and, rather than pay PILON, hand them the equivalent sum in the form of liquidated damages. But this throws up its own anomaly since once a contract has been broken none of its other provisions, such as gagging clauses, can be enforced.

As the Revenue applies this ruling with increasing zeal, the numbers affected will grow until they start to register on the Westminster radar. Kenneth Clarke was left to repent at leisure and ultimately reverse his hasty decision to tax the share options of Asda check-out staff, proving once again that legislation on the hoof is invariably bad legislation. Likewise, this is one PILON just waiting to give the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Dawn Primarolo, a nasty shock.

EMI loses battle to keep redundancy pay tax-free

The Government stood accused last night of penalising workers facing the sack after the High Court ruled that some forms of redundancy payment were taxable. Andrew Verity and Cathy Newman report on failed attempts by EMI to stop the Inland Revenue taxing the "golden goodbye".

A High Court judge has upheld the Inland Revenue's right to tax lump sum payments to employees who have been sacked summarily without working out their notice period.

In a landmark ruling affecting hundreds of thousands of employees facing redundancy, Mr Justice Neuberger

rejected an attempt by EMI to overturn a decision last year which found the payments to be fully taxable. The ruling means that sacked employees could be up to £12,000 worse off.

The payments, called payments in lieu of notice, had been thought to be tax-free up to a value of £30,000. But last August the Revenue cracked down on the payments by insisting they would be fully taxable.

Before the original ruling, employers topped up redundancy payments with the salary that would have been paid had the employee worked out the notice period. So long as the total payment was below £30,000, no tax was levied. Now that salary can be taxed at the marginal rate of up to 40 per cent - a maximum liability of £12,000 per person.

EMI was pursued by the Inland Revenue when it made the payments to two senior em-

ployees. The decision could mean extra tax liabilities for hundreds of employers who believed the payments were tax-free. While employees have benefited from tax-free payments, the Revenue is more likely to pursue companies for failing to operate their tax systems correctly.

EMI said last night it had no comment to make as it could consider a further appeal. Since the ruling last year, employers have rushed to remove clauses from contracts of employment which allow them to make payments in lieu of notice.

If the clauses are removed, employers can pay tax-free damages because they have broken their contracts of employment. However, employers are reluctant to take this course of action because it would prevent them enforcing other terms of the contract such as gagging clauses.



Ward Thomas, the 74-year-old chairman and chief executive of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, bowed out yesterday, but vowed to return to television. Mr Thomas was offered the post of chairman of Granada Media Group after the two companies merged this year. But, despite having moved into Granada's London offices, he never had a contract and has decided not to stay on.

Sugar looks east for football investment opportunities

Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, confirmed yesterday that the club wants to invest in overseas football clubs, particularly in Asia. His vision is a network of half a dozen clubs which could achieve greater efficiency in sponsorship, marketing and the development of players. Nigel Coke, City Correspondent, reports.

Spurs has appointed investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell to look at the various opportunities. "We have made several inquiries in several places," Mr Sugar said, though he added that a final decision was some way off.

He continued: "The positive aspects include the movement of players between clubs. You could provide the stage at Tottenham for a top player from Malaysia or China. On the business side, you could bring in a player from a club you owned in Norway, for example, play him in the Premiership and sell him on to a third party."

"From a marketing point of view, if you owned six clubs from around the world, you could go to a potential sponsor and sell them the idea of having their name on the shirts of all six clubs."

However, he admitted that there were potential stumbling blocks. UEFA, the European football body, does not allow large clubs to own nursery clubs. Mr Sugar confirmed he had made "inquiries in several countries" about the possibility of widening his soccer empire, but declined to reveal where.

He said Tottenham was not interested in the idea of following the example of champions Manchester United and launching a themed television channel, describing the idea as a non-starter.

His comments came as Tottenham reported pre-tax profit of £7.6m in the year to end-July, up from £4.2m the previous year. The total wage bill rose by 30 per cent to £10m as the club tied its players to longer contracts to counter the effects of the Bosman ruling, which allows the free movement of players within the European Union once they are out of contract.

Defender Sol Campbell and goalkeeper Ian Walker were two players to benefit from new contracts. Profit before player trading and one-off items rose £600,000 to £9.1m.

Tottenham shares closed unchanged at 90p.

Rate rises set to dampen housing boom

The Bank of England's application of the interest rate brakes will succeed in slowing the housing market next year, forecasting group Cambridge Econometrics predicts.

The report foresees a fall in the number of sales compared with this year, and a gentler pace of increase in house prices, with the booming southeast seeing the greatest retreat.

The predictions looked a safer bet following figures yesterday which indicated that new mortgage lending expanded at a gentler pace last month. New home loans by the building societies and high street banks amounted to £1.5bn, a shade below August's increase in lending.

The figures, covering most

mortgage lending, suggested that the pace of the recovery might have steadied. The building societies have gained market share at the expense of the expanded banking sector, but total mortgage lending is no longer accelerating as rapidly as it was earlier this year.

Further rises in interest rates, widely expected during the next few months, are likely to slow lending growth and house-price inflation even further. But the report says falling unemployment will underpin the housing recovery. It predicts house-price inflation of 6.5 per cent in 1998 compared with around 10 per cent this year.

In the longer term, house prices will be driven by growing demand for housing. The in-

crease in demand will be strongest in southern England, where the number of households is expected to rise by 1 per cent a year from 2000 to 2010.

What's more, when the housing market gathers steam again, it will not be emerging from a deep slump. "Any upturn in activity will have a more immediate impact on house price," the report concludes.

Separate figures yesterday showed that M4, the broad measure of the money supply, grew uncomfortably fast last month. Its annual growth picked up to 11.8 from 11.6 per cent. But economists will attach more importance to today's figures for GDP, expected to show a 1 per cent rise in the third quarter.

- Diane Coyle

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

ICI reassures the market

Having mesmerised the market with the speed of transformation of ICI from a lumbering industrial chemicals giant into a nimble specialities business, Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive must now prove he can handle the new beast.

The speed of the makeover was certainly pleasing. Mr Miller Smith bought Unilever's speciality chemicals division in May and just three months later persuaded Du Pont to part with £1.8m for ICI's industrial tioxide and polyester business and sold off another £1bn of assets. The market had expected the disposals to take three years and ICI's shares soared from 688p to over 1,100p.

However, ICI's share price has gone downhill since then. Half-year results were disappointing, particularly some of the speciality side. Hence the interest in yesterday's third-quarter results.

Reassuring is the best word. True, the pain from the strong pound was more protracted than expected. Sterling wiped £50m off third-quarter profits, which rose 8 per cent to £132m at constant currency, and will hit the full-year figure by some £180m. £30m more than predicted. Most of that is true economic cost, but as more industrial chemicals businesses are sold off, that will switch to a paper hit. Unlike industrial chemicals, speciality chemicals tend to be manufactured close to customers, not exported.

There was good news too on remaining disposals. Allan Spall, ICI's finance director, says there is some £2.5bn of industrial chemicals still to go and further sales are likely in the next six months. Methanol is top of the list, with the £500m explosives business and fertilisers and gas also to go.

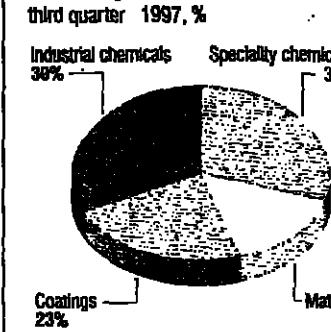
So what of the specialities side? Profits across all businesses grew. Within National Starch, two-thirds of the total, food starches did well as did adhesives and industrial resins. Margins in Unichema, the glycerine business, are approaching the double-digit mark after a slow start. Paint is improving, but could do better.

With gearing expected to be at a comfortable 60 per cent after the Du Pont money comes in, the most pressing issue is the group's rating. Analysts forecast clean full-year profits of around

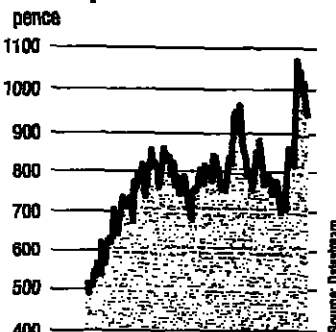
Imperial Chemical Industries: At a glance

Five-year record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997
Turnover (£bn)	9.2	10.3	10.5	2.67	3.29
Pre-tax profits (£m)	408	927	498	125	671
Earnings per share (p)	26.0	73.9	37.9	9.7	74.9
Dividends per share (p)	27.5	30	30		

Sales by division



Share price



£430m to £440m, an upgrade of some £30m. On these figures ICI shares trade on around 22 times, a whisk higher than many pure speciality chemical stocks. High enough.

Luminar has found a niche

Finding good entertainment outside the UK's big cities can be a headache for a suburban-bred teenager looking for action. Steve Thomas, chief executive of Luminar, the restaurants and night-clubs group, spotted a gap in the market seven years ago with the launch of Chicago Rock Café, the bar-restaurant-disco concept he wryly tags "the Planet Hollywood of Basingstoke". The company comprises 20 Chicago Rock Cafés, all in small or medium-sized towns, with a further five due to open before December.

Investors who bought Luminar shares at flotation 18 months ago have had a cracking run for their money. The company floated at 200p a share, and, prior to yesterday's publication of first-half figures, its shares hit a 484.5p high.

The 30p fall to close at 454.5p yesterday reflects a combination of profit-taking and difficult market conditions rather than disappointment with the figures. Luminar's pre-tax profits rose 7 per cent in the half-year to August to £1.69m, in-line with expectations. Profit growth was depressed by one-off head-office costs and new club openings. With the head office expenditure complete and revenues from new outlets about to start rolling in, second-half profits should pick up.

Luminar is going for aggressive expansion of its Rock Café concept, which could be expensive given soaring land rents. May's £15.6m rights issue money will be all spent this year. However, Luminar has negotiated another £17m with the Bank of Scotland and says this will pay for further expansion into early February 1999.

Fast growth in a saturated sector may worry some, given the recent frenzy of new theme-restaurant openings. But Luminar has spotted a niche in the suburbs and is probably right to try to exploit it. Its string of night-clubs gives it a relatively predictable income stream to fund expansion and its experiments with new themes are paying off. Luminar's shares are trading on a high 25 times this year, with the

crucial Christmas season still ahead. However, the rating falls to 14 times in 1999 and those in for the longer-term, the shares look worth holding.

Acquisitions likely at Action

Action Computer Supplies, the fast-growing mail-order computer and peripherals supplier, has attracted much frothy comment since it came to the market via a reverse takeover in June 1996. However, in this case the excitement looks deserved.

Action Computer specialises in 1,000 page catalogues supplying branded computers, faxes and other peripherals to the business market. The mail-order sector is worth over £1bn in the UK and is growing at double-digit rates. The market is also consolidating around the largest players which should help Action.

It has developed a "low-cost model" aimed at keeping costs to a minimum and being competitive on price in what is essentially a commodity market. Overheads as a percentage of sales have shrunk by 22 per cent in four years.

The effect on the bottom line has been impressive. Pre-tax profits rose by more than 50 per cent to £5.1m in the year to 29 August. Management, led by chairman Henry Lewis, wants to build UK sales to £500m and acquisitions are likely. The company is in talks on a deal at the moment which is says would not be dilutive. With nearly £5m of net cash, it has the resources. Europe is a longer-term ambition.

There are competitive threats. The Dixons-owned PC World has started a catalogue operation though it has higher costs due to its store portfolio. But Action Computer is expanding its Internet sales operation, which already accounts for 8 per cent of daily orders and will have even lower costs. The bigger headache is margins, which will be constantly under threat and the challenge will be to reduce overheads faster than the rate of margin erosion.

Still, on forecasts of £6.1m the shares - unchanged at 200.5p - trade on a forward rating of 17. For a company achieving organic growth of 25 per cent a year, that seems good value.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Rodolph Agnew, chairman of Redland, the building materials group under siege from French rival Lafarge, has an unusual way of relaxing from the day's stresses. This veteran of takeover battles likes to unwind with a jigsaw puzzle. Not a regular jigsaw, mind. Mr Agnew likes things tough. He gets his puzzles from a special manufacturer who deliberately doesn't provide any picture guides as to what the finished jigsaw will look like. "I like not knowing how the thing will turn out," says Mr Agnew. Appropriate really for a man who is working out how on earth to defend his struggling company against Lafarge.

"The whole essence is to pitch yourself against the manufacturers. Some of them are pretty cunning," he muses. Mr Agnew started the 3,000 piece puzzle he is currently working on 18 months ago. "It was given to me by a friend who asked the manufacturer to make the most difficult jigsaw he could think of. I'm still only half way through it," he says. Mr Agnew's other pursuits are equally genteel. He is teetotal and likes to relax with a Gitanes, reading history and biographies. "My two heroes are Charles II and Thomas Jefferson," he confides. "Charles II for style and Jefferson for his intellectual capability. Though I must add, that I don't think I measure up to them," he chuckles.

Employees at Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising company, must be feeling pretty happy today. Abbott Mead's chairman, Peter Mead, has agreed to become patron of the Andrea Adams Trust, which campaigns against bullying in the workplace. The standard work-place practices of "over-loading", "side-lining" and "public criticism", all of which were lambasted by Mr Mead yesterday, are certainly going to have to be off the agenda. So it looks like Abbott Mead should be a pleasant place to work in coming months. No doubt the applications will pour in.

So it seems as though George Magan, founder of the M&A boutique Hambro Magan that was bought by NatWest last year, has been given the job of flopping beleaguered NatWest Markets off to the highest bidder.

If there is a man for the job it would certainly seem to be Mr Magan. Having built up an highly successful business essentially by being good at marrying up buyers to sellers, Mr Magan then

matched up his own company to NatWest, securing himself a cool few million (by conservative estimates) in the process. And now his match-making skills are in demand once again. No doubt another couple of million or so will be winging its way to Mr Magan's wallet in due course.

Big Brother is watching Bill Cosgrove, Wilkinson Sword's chief executive, and his happy band of employees. "Behaviour change" consultancy, Banner McBride, headed by Michael Pomsford, has been appointed to install Wilkinson Sword's "new company ethos" in its employees.

According to its PR company, Wilkinson Sword intends to "shake off its old-fashioned image" with the launch of a new global advertising campaign. The campaign, snappily entitled "The feel of smart design", is aimed to attract younger consumers. Particular targets are teenage boys about to take that great leap into adulthood by picking up their first razor.

What this all will mean for Wilkinson Sword's staff is anyone's guess. Banner McBride specialises in "aligning external messages internally", which, as far as I can gather, essentially means "re-educating" employees so that they project the same sort of image as a company's advertising campaign. Given that Wilkinson Sword seems intent on rejuvenating itself, one comes to the conclusion that Banner McBride's job will be to rejuvenate its employees. Mr Cosgrove will be to rejuvenate its work in Oasis-style anoraks? Female employees wearing platform shoes à la Spice Girls? Rave music piped into the elevators? The mind boggles.

According to research published yesterday by BT and HSBC's telephone banking service First Direct, the older we get, the more likely we are to relish early starts. Apparently, fewer than a quarter of adults under 25 say they are morning people compared with half of the over 65s. And only one in 10 of the over 65s put themselves in the category of "evening people".

This presumably means there will be less pressure on the thrusting young Turks at the Honkers and Shakers to get up bright eyed and bushy tailed with the lark when current chairman, Sir William Purves, retires next May. Sir William himself is (only just) in the 65 and over bracket, so presumably prefers a hot cup of cocoa to a night out at Stringfellows.

Warren Buffett once said famously "I don't ask a barber whether I need a hair cut". The same holds true for investments - it doesn't make a lot of sense asking a salesman of emerging markets funds if exotic stock markets are place for your money. No marks for timing, in the light of yesterday's fun and games around the world, for Daniel Godfrey, chief spin doctor at Save & Prosper, who was heard gushing the results of a survey earlier this week showing 80 per cent of private investors felt a stock market crash was unlikely in the next few months. No surprise either that it's women with the investment nous. 49 per cent of the male punters surveyed last weekend favoured Asian markets, while their spouses plumped for Eastern Europe.

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Foreign Exchange Rates				Dollar			D-Index					
Country	Sterling			Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot	1 month	3 month
	Spot	1 month	3 month									
UK	10000			0.625	0.630	0.649	0.625	0.630	0.649	0.625	0.630	0.649
Australia	2.376	2.352	2.307	1.428	1.429	1.433	1.428	1.429	1.433	1.428	1.429	1.433
Belgium	20.236	20.23	20.22	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98
Bulgaria	53.475	53.475	53.475	36.458	36.458	36.458	36.458	36.458	36.458	36.458	36.458	36.458
Canada	2.592	2.592	2.592	1.384	1.384	1.384	1.384	1.384	1.384	1.384	1.384	1.384
Denmark	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
ECU	14.062	14.048	14.048	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935
France	6.561	6.561	6.561	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935	5.935
Germany	2.2807	2.2807	2.2807	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770
Greece	12.43	12.43	12.43	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459
Hong Kong	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
India	17.00	17.00	17.00	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Italy	16.94	16.94	16.94	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Japan	163.95	163.95	163.95	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Netherlands	2.285	2.285	2.285	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770
Norway	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Portugal	20.236	20.236	20.236	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98	16.98
Spain	166.38	166.38	166.38	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Sweden	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Singapore	12.43	12.43	12.43	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459	1.459
South Africa	7.72	7.72	7.72	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127	1.127
Switzerland	2.285	2.285	2.285	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770
US	1.000			1.000			1.000			1.000		

Other Spot Rates				Sterling			Dollar		
Country	Sterling			Spot	1 month	3 month	Spot	1 month	3 month
	Spot	1 month	3 month						
Argentina	163.95			0.650			0.650		
Australia	1.796			0.650			0.650		
China	15.82			0.650			0.650		
Czech Rep	94.85			0.650			0.650		
Egypt	4.509			0.650			0.650		
France	2.285			0.650			0.650		
Germany	2.285			0.650			0.650		
Greece	12.43			0.650			0.650		
Hong Kong	10.00			0.650			0.650		
India	17.00			0.650			0.650		
Italy	16.94			0.650			0.650		
Japan	163.95			0.650			0.650		
Netherlands	2.285			0.650			0.650		
Norway	10.00			0.650			0.650		
Portugal	20.236			0.650			0.650		
Spain	166.38			0.650			0.650		
Sweden	10.00			0.650			0.650		
Singapore	12.43			0.650			0.650		
South Africa	7.72			0.650			0.650		
Switzerland	2.285			0.650			0.650		
US	1.000			0.650			0.650		

Interest Rates				Sterling			Dollar	
UK	Germany	US	Japan	Base	Discount	Prime	5.00%	0.50%
France	3.00%	4.50%	5.00%	3.00%	4.50%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Intervention	3.00%	4.50%	5.00%	3.00%	4.50%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Discount	6.25%	3.75%	5.00%	6.25%	3.75%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Netherlands	3.00%	3.50%	5.00%	3.00%	3.50%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Swap/Trade	3.00%	3.50%	5.00%	3.00%	3.50%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

Bond Yields				Sterling			Dollar			
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	3 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.30	-0.05	4.78	0.02	5.12	0.03	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
Belgium	3.00	-0.05	4.25	0.02	4.55	0.02	5.00	0.03	5.82	-0.04
Canada	3.38	-0.03	4.41	-0.01	4.81	0.03	5.38	0.04	5.84	-0.05
ECU	4.32	-0.01	4.82	0.01	5.12	0.02	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.97	-0.06	4.41	-0.07	5.00	0.02	5.79	-0.05
Germany	3.69	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Italy	6.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Japan	0.44	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Netherlands	3.88	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Spain	4.98	0.00	4.90	0.02	5.48	0.02	6.08	0.02	6.64	-0.04
Sweden	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.01	2.15	-0.01	2.50	0.00	3.00	0.01
Switzerland	1.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.66	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.00
US	6.85	0.03	5.19	0.28	6.80	-0.09	5.97	-0.08	6.05	-0.48

Money Market Rates				Sterling			Dollar			
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	3 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.30	-0.05	4.78	0.02	5.12	0.03	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
Belgium	3.00	-0.05	4.25	0.02	4.55	0.02	5.00	0.03	5.82	-0.04
Canada	3.38	-0.03	4.41	-0.01	4.81	0.03	5.38	0.04	5.84	-0.05
ECU	4.32	-0.01	4.82	0.01	5.12	0.02	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.97	-0.06	4.41	-0.07	5.00	0.02	5.79	-0.05
Germany	3.69	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Italy	6.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Japan	0.44	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Netherlands	3.88	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Spain	4.98	0.00	4.90	0.02	5.48	0.02	6.08	0.02	6.64	-0.04
Sweden	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.01	2.15	-0.01	2.50	0.00	3.00	0.01
Switzerland	1.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.66	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.00
US	6.85	0.03	5.19	0.28	6.80	-0.09	5.97	-0.08	6.05	-0.48

LIFE FTSE 100 Index Option				Sterling			Dollar			
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	3 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.30	-0.05	4.78	0.02	5.12	0.03	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
Belgium	3.00	-0.05	4.25	0.02	4.55	0.02	5.00	0.03	5.82	-0.04
Canada	3.38	-0.03	4.41	-0.01	4.81	0.03	5.38	0.04	5.84	-0.05
ECU	4.32	-0.01	4.82	0.01	5.12	0.02	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.97	-0.06	4.41	-0.07	5.00	0.02	5.79	-0.05
Germany	3.69	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Italy	6.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Japan	0.44	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Netherlands	3.88	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Spain	4.98	0.00	4.90	0.02	5.48	0.02	6.08	0.02	6.64	-0.04
Sweden	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.01	2.15	-0.01	2.50	0.00	3.00	0.01
Switzerland	1.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.66	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.00
US	6.85	0.03	5.19	0.28	6.80	-0.09	5.97	-0.08	6.05	-0.48

Treasury Bills				Sterling			Dollar			
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	3 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.30	-0.05	4.78	0.02	5.12	0.03	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
Belgium	3.00	-0.05	4.25	0.02	4.55	0.02	5.00	0.03	5.82	-0.04
Canada	3.38	-0.03	4.41	-0.01	4.81	0.03	5.38	0.04	5.84	-0.05
ECU	4.32	-0.01	4.82	0.01	5.12	0.02	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.97	-0.06	4.41	-0.07	5.00	0.02	5.79	-0.05
Germany	3.69	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Italy	6.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Japan	0.44	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Netherlands	3.88	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Spain	4.98	0.00	4.90	0.02	5.48	0.02	6.08	0.02	6.64	-0.04
Sweden	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.01	2.15	-0.01	2.50	0.00	3.00	0.01
Switzerland	1.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	1.66	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.33	0.00
US	6.85	0.03	5.19	0.28	6.80	-0.09	5.97	-0.08	6.05	-0.48

LIFE FTSE 100 Index Option				Sterling			Dollar			
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	3 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.30	-0.05	4.78	0.02	5.12	0.03	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
Belgium	3.00	-0.05	4.25	0.02	4.55	0.02	5.00	0.03	5.82	-0.04
Canada	3.38	-0.03	4.41	-0.01	4.81	0.03	5.38	0.04	5.84	-0.05
ECU	4.32	-0.01	4.82	0.01	5.12	0.02	5.79	0.02	6.31	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.97	-0.06	4.41	-0.07	5.00	0.02	5.79	-0.05
Germany	3.69	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4.58	0.02	5.00	0.02	5.82	0.00
Italy	6.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Japan	0.44	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.54	-0.01	1.17	0.00	1.68	-0.05
Netherlands	3.88	-0.01	4.22	0.00	4					

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Ferguson's quiet men making a big noise in Europe

Manchester United's victory over Feyenoord on Wednesday, combined with results elsewhere in the Champions' League, have lifted the Old Trafford club to the brink of the European Cup quarter-finals.

Glenn Moore, our Football Correspondent, explains why United are already within sight of qualifying.

It is less than three years since Manchester United were crushed 4-0 on a Champions' League visit to Barcelona, but Alex Ferguson's pleasure at the Catalan club's 3-0 defeat in Kiev on Wednesday had nothing to do with revenge. It simply meant United's chances of qualifying for the last eight of the European Cup were even further improved.

That humbling by Barcelona today seems as distant as Liverpool's last championship. Following United's 2-1 win over Feyenoord on Wednesday they are top of Group B and within reach of the quarter-finals. Barcelona are bottom of

Group C and face the difficult task of having to win all three of their remaining games, while hoping other results go their way, to qualify.

The knock-out stage will consist of the six group winners plus the two best-placed runners-up. If United can beat Feyenoord in Rotterdam on 5 November, and Kosice at home on 27 November – which should be a formality – they will almost guarantee themselves one of the runners-up spots regardless of the result against Juventus in Turin on 10 December.

Because those two wins would give United 15 points, a tally which cannot now be

achieved by the runner-up in either Group A, which includes Parma and the holders, Borussia Dortmund, Group C, which includes Newcastle United and Barcelona, or Group F. It can only be matched in Group D if Rosenberg Trondheim win their last three matches, at home to the group leaders, Real Madrid, and away to Olympiakos and Porto. This is unlikely. It can only be matched in Group E should Besiktas win their remaining matches, at home to Bayern Munich, and away to Paris St-Germain and Gothenburg. This, too, is unlikely.

"Barcelona was a good result as it is now difficult for

the second-placed club to qualify in that group," Ferguson said. "I thought them and Porto were certain to go through. It means we have a safety net but if we keep performing we may not need it. We want to go to Juventus and go for the win anyway."

Now Barcelona have to win the group to progress as they have almost no chance of qualifying as one of the two best runners-up. At best, they can earn 10 points. Their plight must have given Bobby Robson cause for thought: they even had their goalkeeper sent off on Wednesday. Though Robson is not a vindictive man – and he

remains a Barcelona employee, having been effectively sacked after winning three trophies for them last year – the difficulties of his successor as coach, Louis van Gaal, must induce a mild *schadenfreude*.

The strongest memory of United's Nou Camp nightmare is the sight of Gary Pallister and Steve Bruce bewildered by Romario and Stoichkov while Peter Schmeichel sat gloomily in the stand. On Wednesday, Pallister was as assured as he has ever appeared, for United or England, while Schmeichel was back in goal, liberated by the post-Bosman raising of the restrictions on foreigners.

Given the blossoming of young English talent at Old Trafford, Schmeichel would no longer need to be left out but United have still benefited from the change. They only played four "foreigners" on Wednesday, including the substitute Ole Gunnar Solisjaer, but had another four on the bench and two more injured (Newcastle featured five, plus two non-playing substitutes and two injured).

More significant, however, is the composure of the team. United have learned much from Barcelona and other defeats and are now better at retaining possession and exercising

patience for longer. They have become adept at changing the pace, mixing bursts of high-octane football with periods of calm. When Feyenoord sat back they passed the ball around to draw them out rather than hoof forward in hope. Or Pallister would stride into the space, forcing the Dutch to come to him and leave gaps for Ryan Giggs and company to exploit.

United's self-control is also impressive. They had the best disciplinary record of last year's Champions' League and are showing the same this season with one yellow card, for Giggs, in three matches. It is a long way from the snarling side of '94.

First cut is the deepest for Smith and crew

The British entry in the Whitbread Race sailed into Cape Town in a respectable but unspectacular fourth place, but, as its skipper tells Stuart Alexander, wiser for the testing experience.

There was a quiet confidence rather than disappointment about Lawrie Smith when he secured fourth place in the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race here yesterday.

The frustration of having seen Silk Cut left behind by the leading trio over a 7,350-mile described by the watch leader, Gordon Maguire, as "the most bizarre leg I have ever seen" was etched on the faces of all the 12-man crew.

As they sailed into the quiet of the early morning at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, they were plainly fortified by the knowledge that they had a good boat, had sailed well, knew what needed to be done next time and that there were eight more races in the series to go. Yet the emotions were still strained.

If Smith and the others were subdued it was understandable. Before they arrived there had been stories of big winds, power hoses upending the crew, smashed gear and treacherous conditions in the southern ocean. This was a different world to the one which they had inhabited for the previous 32 days.

The first was a low maintenance leg, they said. Even on the big day, when they set the best 24-hour run of 412 miles, it was in 25 to 30 knots of wind. "Physically," said Smith, "it was a very easy leg. Mentally it was very frustrating."

The British boat has seen the equivalent of the top three streaming through every light at green, whereas for them and the rest of the Whitbread fleet there was red light after red af-

ter red. Some of the problem was, said Smith, that they had taken the wrong mix of sails because the conditions were not what they had expected. What made it more galling was seeing Paul Cayard, first into Cape Town in EF Language, using to such good effect a design of sail in which they had jointly taken part in development, but which they had left at home.

Mainly, however, they had been sidelined by weather systems which, as all the first three crews in have attested, consistently made the rich richer.

Maguire added: "Everything about the way we set up for this leg was conservative and we got a conservative result. I think we will be less conservative as we go on."

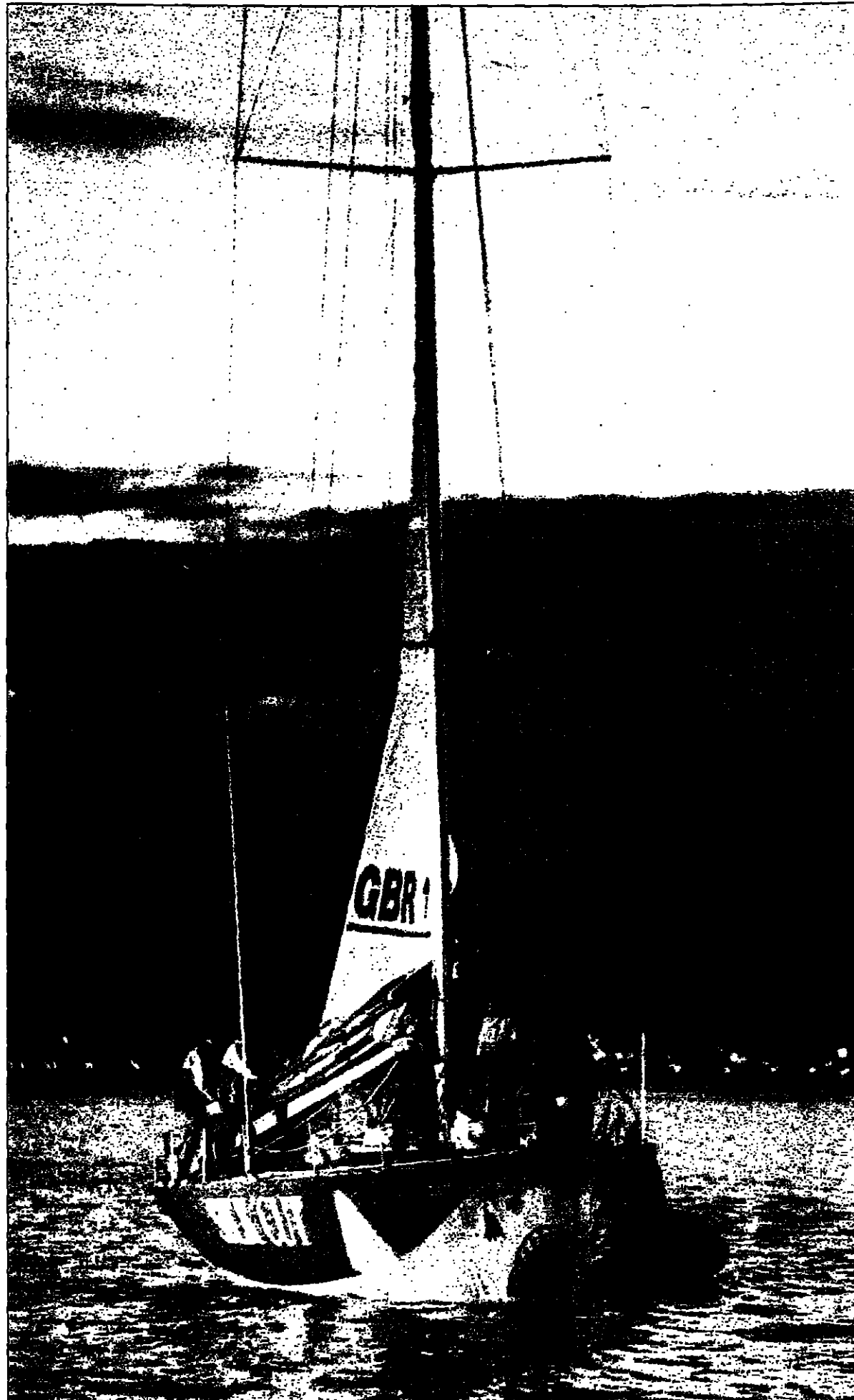
The Silk Cut crew still rate Grant Dalton's Merit Cup as one of the top three in the fleet, but both Smith and Maguire were less sure if Cayard could keep up the momentum which delivered victory so handsomely in the first leg.

"I'm quite sure the three boats that beat us won't finish in the top three on every leg," Smith said. "I know when we were in good breeze we ran more miles than anyone else." They had that breeze for only one and a half days and in 24 hours of them, they covered 412.7 miles.

As well as a completely different mix of sails for the next leg to Fremantle, which starts on 8 November, Smith will also be taking more food.

"I think across the crew we have lost about 100kg," said Smith, but they will be assessing very carefully the amount of gear they take to cover any breakdowns. "One mistake was probably taking too much spare kit," he added.

"We have spent the last week thinking about where we go from here," Maguire said. "I think having to settle for fourth this time could be inspirational. I am very pleased with the way the boys worked. Team spirit is stronger than any I have seen on a Whitbread boat."



The crew of Silk Cut stow their sails as they slip into Cape Town yesterday morning

Photograph: AP

Cameroon to provide warm-up test for England

England's preparation for France 98 will begin with a match against Cameroon at Wembley on 15 November. Glenn Moore looks at the Africans' pedigree and rounds up other World Cup news for next year and 2006.

If Glenn Hoddle really wanted to test his young lions' character, England would be taking on the Indomitable Lions in Yaounde but economics – and Premiership managers – dictate a Wembley date for England's first World Cup warm-up.

It is still a good fixture which recognises the strides made by African nations over the last 15 years and the impact Hoddle expects them to have on next year's World Cup finals. As well as the match with Cameroon on 15 November, he is also considering a fixture with Nigeria in February, although Colombia and Uruguay are also in contention for that date.

Cameroon, although they disappointed in America in 1998, are a capable side who have qualified for four of the last five World Cups. They came to global attention in Italy '90 when they defeated the holders, Argentina, Romania and Colombia to reach the quarter-finals. They then led England 2-1 with eight minutes to go before losing to two Gary Lineker penalties. This followed a credible display in Spain in 1982 when they drew with Italy, Poland and Peru but did not qualify for the second stage. They were thus eclipsed by Algeria, whose defeat of West Germany first announced African football's arrival.

Cameroon did not qualify in 1986 and were overshadowed in 1994 (when they drew with

Sweden before losing heavily to Brazil and Russia) by Nigeria who thrashed Bulgaria and were two minutes from knocking out Italy. However, they easily qualified as one of five African representatives in France, being unbeaten against Zimbabwe, Angola and Togo.

Cameroon no longer have Roger Milla – even he had to retire eventually – but they do have a flamboyant goalkeeper, Deporivo La Coura's Jacques Songo'o. The 33-year-old went to 1990 and 1994 but played just once – the 6-1 defeat to Russia in San Francisco. He has since overcome the challenge of the Czech Republic's Petr Kouba at club level to be voted La Liga's top goalkeeper last year. In attack, Cameroon have Patrick Mboma, currently starring for Gamba Osaka in Japan.

The Saturday match at Wembley will kick-off at 6pm. Ticket prices, as is common for friendlies, are slightly lower than for recent World Cup games.

While England are preparing for France, Italy are still trying to get there and Cesare Maldini yesterday made a significant change in his squad for the first play-off match with Russia in Moscow next week. Fabrizio Ravanelli, now playing and scoring goals again with Marseilles, is back with Filippo Inzaghi dropped. Angelo Di Livio is suspended after being sent off against England, but Roberto Di Matteo returns.

Looking two tournaments hence, the Football Association yesterday floated the idea of playing some World Cup 2006 matches in Wales and Scotland if England won the bid. Cardiff Arms Park, Hampden Park, Broomfield Park and Murrayfield are under consideration.

However, since the initial reaction from Fifa, the game's governing body, was unfavourable, the idea may be dropped as swiftly as it was raised.

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Tiverton stand between Sudbury and place in the sun

This time last year Sudbury Town had embarked on an FA Cup run which saw them achieve the best result in their history: a first-round replay win at Brighton and Hove Albion. They went on to give a good account of themselves in a 3-1 second-round defeat to Brentford.

Sudbury also had a steady season in the Premier Division of the Dr Martens League – the highest level they had reached in the non-League pyramid. Prosperity and progress were an illusion, however, as the Suffolk side's world fell apart in the summer. A financial crisis meant a voluntary drop down two divisions to take the place of their reserve team in the Jewson East-Corn League.

"It was something that had to be done, and we had to release several contract players," David Webb, Sudbury's secretary, said. "But things are looking up. We're on an unbeaten run of 13 games, and gates have held up well."

Now Sudbury are starting the long climb back up the non-League ladder. Their status may be diminished, but they are still a solid Cup-fighting side, and tomorrow they will be bat-

tling for their second consecutive appearance in the first round of the FA Cup.

Sudbury have been drawn against a team from the same level of the non-League pyramid in tomorrow's fourth qualifying round – but that does not mean they have an easy tie. They must travel to Devon to take on Tiverton Town, the champions of the Screwfix Direct Western League, whose league record this term in defence of their title reads played nine, won nine, goals for 37 against one.

Both clubs have been all the way to Wembley for FA Vase finals – Sudbury in 1989, Tiverton four years later – and, despite their humble league level, neither club will be overawed if they are paired with a Nationwide League side in the first-round draw.

Knapresley Victoria, probably the smallest club left in the FA Cup, have a home tie tomorrow against Boston United, while North Ferriby United, last season's beaten Vase finalists, travel to Southport in search of an upset. The draw for the first round will be televised live by Sky Sports soon after 5pm tomorrow.

— Rupert Metcalf

Minardi driven to change their pointless existence in Formula One

While all eyes will be on Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher in their duel for the world drivers' championship on Sunday, Minardi-Hart will be engaged in their own private battle. Derick Allsup looks at the grand prix team whose only desire is to achieve a point.

A season of toil and tension has brought it all down to this, a last-race test, and the Italian team will summon one more effort to achieve a long elusive objective. And their struggle will go almost unnoticed.

While the eyes of the world focus on those other Italians at Ferrari, and Michael Schumacher's deciding confrontation with the Williams-Renault dri-

ver Jacques Villeneuve, in the Grand Prix of Europe at Jerez on Sunday, Minardi-Hart's agenda provides a sobering aside for all sporting romantics.

Minardi are endeavouring to avoid the dubious distinction of being the only Formula One team to complete the season without a point. As a matter of fact, they have not scored a point for two years, since Pedro Lam's sixth place in the final grand prix of the 1995 championship. The team have come nowhere near winning from 204 attempts in 13 seasons.

Given that they have a staff of 80 against the 200 and 300-strong armies of the leading teams, and a budget which amounts to small change compared with Ferrari's riches, their track record is scarcely surprising. Minardi might be Italian for minnow.

In reality, it is the name of the founder and perpetual guiding light. Their plight, how-

ever, prompts a question for Gian Carlo Minardi: what keeps you going on? The response is equally obvious: "My passion for the sport".



Katayama: quitting FI

is president of his local semi-professional club, Faenza, who have won the first seven games of their season and aspire to Italy's Serie C.

Points in the premier league of four-wheel combat are more difficult to come by. Apart from limited resources, Minardi have had a few linguistic obstacles to overcome.

Their senior driver, the mildly eccentric Japanese Ukyo Katayama, and his Italian engineers have communicated in pigeon English, and in the heat of battle, radio messages from cockpit to pits have taken some deciphering.

For all that, and his unfathomable excursions off the track, Minardi insist they are sorry that Katayama is turning his back on Formula One after Sunday's race to climb Mount Everest without the aid of oxygen. They will miss his experience as well as his idiosyncrasies. "We have got used

to his voice and expressions," a team spokesman said.

Katayama has been embraced by this homely environment and Minardi, the team's 50-year-old father figure, takes a personal interest in every member of his family. At race meetings, he asks his younger mechanics whether they have telephoned their parents.

He has a reputation for being a talent spotter. Some of Italy's brightest drivers, including Alessandro Nannini and Giancarlo Fisichella, were nurtured by Minardi.

But Minardi says modestly: "I don't believe you can give a driver talent, all you can do is give him the opportunity to develop it, and some teams take bigger risks than others."

The wealthier teams can, of course, afford to hire proven talent and in Italy the only other team is the wealthiest of them all. Minardi concedes a

lack of English has undermined his position at Formula One's ruthless negotiating table, and every year he has had to blow half his budget on engines.

Next year, however, his cars will be powered by Ford V10 engines, and he is confident his entire package and programme will be better prepared. For the first time, he will have a designated test team.

Minardi has yielded majority shareholding in the team to secure a sounder foundation. He now has only a 15 per cent stake, while 70 per cent has been taken by Gabriele Rumi, boss of Fondmetal, the successful manufacturers of alloy wheels.

The Brazilian, Tarso Marques, will be the other driver at the wheel of Minardi's fortunes at Jerez on Sunday, but the team admit they are not optimistic of winning that point.

TENNIS

Henman
not at home
with range

Not all the sparkle is reserved for the posh arena at the Eurocard Open, as John Roberts discovered in Stuttgart yesterday. Tim Henman raised his game off centre stage, but not enough to overcome Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman.

The setting may have been reminiscent of the final of a satellite tournament, but the match was of the highest quality as Tim Henman strove unsuccessfully to overcome Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman yesterday for a place in the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with the dimensions or the surface of the Grandstand Court here, and the ambience would be all too familiar to British players serving their apprenticeship. Henman, who has gone beyond that, simply found it difficult to adjust from the spacious Centre Court in the Schleyerhalle to the homey barn next door.

"I struggled with the surroundings to begin with in the first set," the 23-year-old from Oxford said after losing in the third round, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. "I couldn't sort of judge the distance. The peripheral vision is a little bit different. I felt very enclosed."

Fortunately, Henman's sense of claustrophobia disappeared as a fascinating contest unfolded. Bjorkman's early superiority drawing rather more from Henman's repertoire than had been seen in his previous matches this week against a blossoming Tommy Haas and a bad-tempered Goran Ivanisevic.

Trailing 4-1, Henman endeavoured to prolong the opening set, "so I could get a feel", and get my range off the ground and be ready to go in the second set. He also managed to steady his serve, having missed every first delivery when broken a second time in what fifth game.

Work still needs to be done in this department. Henman double-faulted nine times, bringing his total to 24 for the three matches. However, his general play and confidence had improved so markedly by the end of the match that he showed his disappointment at

losing by slumping in his chair and cracking his racket. "Sure, I broke a racket, but the world still goes round," he said, his mind turning towards the next event, in Paris.

Bjorkman, ranked six places above Henman at No 13 in the world, has much to challenge him between now and the end of the season, not least leading his country against the United States in the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg. Swedish observers must have gasped when the trainer was summoned to treat Bjorkman's back after the third game. His shot-making thereafter suggested an encouraging degree of mobility.

Greg Rusedski defeated Bjorkman in the semi-finals of the United States Open, the Briton's serving proving too hot on the day for the Swede's renowned returns.

Bjorkman, keen to attack Henman at every opportunity, might have won in straight sets yesterday but for the quick eye of the umpire. The Swede, believing he had held serve for 4-4 in the second set, was told to continue the game by the umpire, who assured him that Henman's cross-court backhand on game point had landed on the line. Henman subsequently broke for 5-3, and the spectators were guaranteed further entertainment.

Bjorkman made the crucial break for 3-1 in the final set, creating the opportunity with a superb running backhand down the line and converting it with a forehand pass.

In the main arena, meanwhile, the top seeds continued to suffer. Pete Sampras, the world No 1, was eliminated, 6-4, 6-4, by Richard Krajicek, who in 1996 denied the American a fourth consecutive Wimbledon title.

Pat Rafter (No 3) and Marcelo Rios (No 9) are the only survivors from the top 10. And with Sampras, Michael Chang and Rafter the only players guaranteed places in the eight-strong ATP Tour Championship next month, the race for Hannover continues.

● Australia's Mark Philippoussis has pulled out of next week's Paris indoor tournament because of a painful shoulder.

● Steffi Graf has confirmed her entry for the inaugural Masters of Champions event in Frankfurt next month. Graf, the former world No 1, has been out of action after a knee operation.



Cleveland's Sandy Alomar snaps his bat in the fourth innings in game four of the World Series

Photograph: Reuters

BASEBALL: WORLD SERIES

Wright has the bite to freeze out Marlins

Game Four of the World Series had all the elements: snow, wind, record cold and a rejuvenated Matt Williams. Williams and Manny Ramirez hit home runs as the Cleveland Indians beat the Florida Marlins 10-3 to even the Series at 2-2 on Wednesday night.

On an evening when snow flurries fell at Jacob's Field and one fan behind the Indians dug-out, held a sign that proclaimed "Not In Our Igloo", the only thing that accumulated were runs by the Indians. Sandy Alomar had three of the Indians' 15 hits

and drove in three runs, ensuring the Series will return to Miami this weekend.

It was 3C at the start, making it the coldest since World Series temperatures were first recorded in 1975, and snow fell for the first time in the Fall Classic since 1979 at Balimore. The weather, though, had little impact on this game as the Indians took a 6-0 lead after three innings, and 21-year-old Jaret Wright made it stand up.

"That was important - to get going early in the game," Williams said. "That goes

back to putting pressure on the other team. That was huge. That set the tone from the beginning."

Wright outpitched Tony Saunders in a match-up of rookie starters as the Indians won before a bundled-up crowd of 44,877.

"We didn't get off on the right foot," the Marlins manager, Jim Leyland, said. "We made a little run there. We just couldn't stop the bleeding. I was very impressed with Jaret Wright. He's got all the ingredients to be a great one."

Williams' two-run homer in the eighth made sure the Marlins would not come back. The All-Star third baseman hit just 125 in the 1989 Series for San Francisco and was 4 for 14 in this Series without an extra base hit. Alomar, a hero in a Game Two, is 8 for 17 in the Series.

Despite the Indians setting a franchise post-season record for hits, Marquis Grissom had none, but they can expect "tough warnings" from the ruling body, according to its secretary, John Morris.

Hamed has come in for considerable criticism from within the sport. The former world featherweight champion and president of the Professional Boxers' Association, Barry

ATHLETICS

Ma's women attack records

China's Jiang Bo took another three seconds off the women's 5,000 metres world record yesterday, the second time in a week a new mark has been set in the event at the China National Games.

The 20-year-old Jiang recorded 14:28.09 in the final at the Games, beating the mark of 14:31.27 set by Doug Yanzei on Tuesday.

The women's performances this week have catapulted the controversial coach, Ma Junren, back into the limelight.

"Our coach uses a scientific method, and has already trained world champions," Jiang said after her victory. "Achieving this result is a result of his experience."

Ma's runners burst on to the athletics scene by shattering several middle-distance records before the outspoken coach fell out with key team members and sport officials.

Sensational record-setting performances by his team in

1993 - including the 1500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres at the World Championships in Stuttgart - led to accusations of drug abuse.

Ma said his athletes' success was due to hard work, turtle's blood and caterpillar fungus, and blamed western media for the drug-taking rumours.

Jiang said no specific strategy for breaking the record had been devised by Ma. "He just wanted the record broken, he didn't say which one of us, or how many of us should do it."

Ma said that Jiang and Dong, 17, would be ready to take gold at the Sydney Olympics. "I want to assure all the Chinese people that my runners can win at least three gold medals in Sydney Olympics."

The women's 10,000m and 3,000m records are held by Ma's former protégée, Wang Junxia, who broke away from her mentor in 1994. She won the 5,000m gold at the Atlanta Olympics two years later.

BOXING

Hamed criticised after fracas

Leading figures in boxing today joined to urge Naseem Hamed to tone down his act, following his fracas with Chris Eubank at Heathrow Airport on Wednesday night.

Hamed and Eubank came to blows when Eubank arrived at the airport for a meeting with the promoter of both fighters, Frank Warren. The British Board of Control seem unlikely to fine either man, but they can expect "tough warnings" from the ruling body, according to its secretary, John Morris.

Hamed has come in for considerable criticism from within the sport. The former world featherweight champion and president of the Professional Boxers' Association, Barry

McGuigan, said: "It was a bottle of egos. I'm sure that's what it was. Boxing's a proud sport, everyone wants to be known as the top dog, as it were. I think Naz's PR wants a bit of work, there's no doubt about that."

"He doesn't need to be so arrogant. He's a nice kid, a good kid, that's the thing about it. He just feels he has to make an impression and I suppose after a while people will get tired of it, the press will get tired of it, and even his fans will get tired of it."

The former heavyweight Henry Cooper said: "He is cocky, but I suppose all world champions have it. But that doesn't excuse his behaviour. I haven't got any time for fighters having punch-ups outside the ring."

RUGBY UNION

Pontypridd want 'protection'

Pontypridd are to ask Brive for "protection" for their players as they leave the field at the end of their Heineken European Cup quarter-final play-off in France on 1 November.

When the sides met in Brive in September, the Pontypridd players were surrounded by several hundred home fans at the final whistle.

"Brive have assured us we will be offered a good welcome in a spirit of friendship," Eddie Jones, the team manager, said. "But we will be discussing the security arrangements for our players before we travel."

Pontypridd are also hoping to find out whether Dale McIntosh, Phil John and Andre Barnard will be allowed to return to Brive after they were charged with violent conduct and criminal damage after incidents in a bar following the first match.

Wales could be watched by the biggest crowd in its history when they take on New Zealand at Wembley on 29 November. Advance sales have already hit 40,000, with officials optimistic of reaching the 75,000 capacity, even though England play South Africa at Twickenham on the same day.

SPORTING DIET

American football

The Dallas Cowboys' Darryl Johnston has decided to have neck surgery and will not play for the rest of the season. The left-back, who missed his first game for eight years on Sunday, listed paralysis if he continued to play, because of a bulging disc in his neck.

Baseball

(Best-of-seven series tied 2-2)

Cricket
Matthew Maynard sets out for New Zealand on Monday on a fact-finding mission to determine whether England, invest in promoting a new format of cricket in this country. The Cardiff stage of the Championship for the first time since 1969 last month, leads an England side against New Zealand. Devised by former New Zealand batsman Martin Crowe, Cricket Match is a 20-over-a-side game lasting three and a half hours, with a half hour of music to greet each batsman arriving at the wicket.

Cycling
1998 TOUR DE FRANCE STAGES (total races about 3,500; 2,200 cyclists): 13 July: Prologue, Dublin 5.7km; 14 July: 1st stage, Dublin 100km; 15 July: 2nd stage, Enniscorthy-Cork 200km; 16 July: 3rd stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 17 July: 4th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 18 July: 5th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 19 July: 6th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 20 July: 7th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 21 July: 8th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 22 July: 9th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 23 July: 10th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 24 July: 11th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 25 July: 12th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 26 July: 13th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 27 July: 14th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 28 July: 15th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 29 July: 16th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 30 July: 17th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 31 July: 18th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 1 Aug: 19th stage, Rosslare-Enniscorthy 171km; 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James under threat as Liverpool line up £2m Friedel

The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, appears to have lost patience with his goalkeeper David James, with the Merseyside club lining up a £2m bid for a replacement, Brad Friedel.

Liverpool have applied for a work permit for the American, and may get an answer as early as today. Friedel's talents have attracted English clubs before - with Newcastle and Sunderland showing interest at different times - but the work permit has proved a stumbling block.

Liverpool are confident they will succeed this time, and if they do Friedel can expect to be playing first-team football in the immediate future since a spell in the reserves would jeopardise any permit being renewed.

Friedel, 27, has been playing for the Columbus Crew in Major Soccer League in the United States, but with his team having been knocked out of the play-offs would be available immediately. The fee would be paid to the League itself. It is understood that Friedel has al-

ready agreed personal terms and is ready to sign a four-year contract with the club.

Friedel has experience playing in Europe, in Turkey for Galatasaray in Turkey when they were coached by Graeme Souness. The Department of the Environment confirmed yesterday: "We have a work permit application in for Friedel."

James' erratic form in the Liverpool goal has caused consternation among Liverpool fans for some time now, and there was a period during last

season when his blunders came at the rate of at least one a match. At the time Evans stood by his player in the face of intense criticism, but despite a slightly more encouraging start to this season there was plenty of evidence of the old failings in James' displays in Liverpool's two poor performances this week against Everton last Saturday and in Strasbourg in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday night. With Evans himself under intense scrutiny after those defeats clearly he felt it was time

to act. Yesterday he also felt the need to stamp out speculation that he may be about to quit.

"What's the point of me walking away?" he told Club-Call. "I get paid to do the job and I'll see it through."

The Football Association has defended its decision to entrust the referee Mike Reed with Monday's game between West Ham and Leicester following the comments of the chairman of Leicester's supporters' club.

Reed enraged many of Leicester's supporters last sea-

son when he awarded Chelsea a disputed penalty in an FA Cup fifth round replay at Stamford Bridge. Reed's car was attacked by fans after that game and the FA withdrew him from officiating at Leicester's Premiership match against Chelsea in April.

Reed's latest appointment at Filbert Street was described as "madness" by the supporters' club chairman, Cliff Ginetta.

"It's a crazy situation," he said. "I can't believe the FA are willing to take such a risk. It just shows what a lot of old buffoons

they are. It's madness. It defies belief and common sense. You would think Mike Reed is the one man they want to keep away from Leicester."

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "It's never been suggested by anyone at Leicester that he shouldn't referee their games. Mike Reed has been asked to officiate and that is what he will do."

The Football League, meanwhile, has decided that out-of-contract players of 24 years of age and over will be en-

titled to a free transfer from next summer, in line with the Premier League. Players under the qualifying age or still under contract will still be subject to a fee.

The Newcastle defender Philippe Albert has refused to postpone his retirement from international football despite earning a recall to the Belgian squad for next week's World Cup play-off first leg against the Republic of Ireland.

— Alan Nixon
Spurs' profits, page 25

Piggott turns back the clock as he saddles up again in the cause of charity

Little about Lester Piggott has changed over the years, certainly neither his popularity nor his appearance, as Richard Edmondson saw at Wincanton yesterday.

Lester Piggott was back in the saddle at Wincanton's charity day yesterday and, to his credit, he did not flinch when the gavel came down at the racecourse auction. It was 10 years to the day that Lester Keith Piggott's name had reverberated around the panelled walls of Ipswich Crown Court as the greatest jockey of his time was sent down for three years on tax charges.

The Long Fellow was handcuffed to a fellow felon and loaded into the prison bus for Norwich, where at least he was spared the indignity of sewing sacks together. Instead, the bags came to him as supportive correspondence arrived from around the world.

Indiscretions have never damaged Piggott's popularity (his illegitimate son Jamie was also on parade yesterday) and the Somerset racecourse was awash with wellwishers. Lester, 62 in two weeks' time, emerged in the blue and grey colours of his parading partner, Desert Orchid. He appeared lined and drawn and grey, which shows how well he has aged. He looked like that 30 years ago.

Dessie himself is no chicken these days and, as he reaches 19, his coat has turned whiter than milk. One of his legs has also turned a bit funny but the old horse was still



Enduring favourites: Lester Piggott rode Desert Orchid in a charity flat race at Wincanton yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

able to break into a canter. Lester has been faster on a jumper at Wincanton. The first of his 20 National Hunt winners came here in 1953 on Eldoret.

They paraded with fellow equestrians Nick Skelton and Stroller's old friend, Marian

Mould. Anna Ludlow, Lester's former personal assistant, led round their four-year-old offspring on Cabby.

On his return, Piggott signed autographs and then danced past the old foe. "Lester can we have a quick word," the

press pack asked. "Yes," said Lester as he disappeared into the jockey's room and for a long time it appeared that was the quick word he had in mind. But he emerged to detail what a pleasure it had been to be in contact with another living

legend. "He [Dessie] had a bad leg recently, but he seems tremendous," Piggott said. "He gave me a marvellous feel."

Lester never gives us much, a trait he seems to have passed through the chromosomes. Apparently the crowd was for-

tunate to get such a protracted look at Jamie. "We were lucky today because he usually gets off after five minutes," said his father as he too left the scene, perhaps with more taxing things on his mind.

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Kinnear lights up after a bright display at Derby

Wimbledon's Crazy Gang may be long gone but their determined resilience against an inferior Derby ensured they secured a deserved point from their replayed Premiership match at Pride Park on Wednesday.

The first encounter on 13 August - the first League match at Derby's new stadium - ended prematurely when the floodlights failed.

But Wimbledon are rarely outwitted twice in succession and without such experienced and cultured campaigners as Stefano Eranio, Robin Van Der Laan and Igor Stimac, the Derby manager, Jim Smith, was thankful for the draw. "It's one more point than we got off them last season."

Having survived two first-half lapses in defensive concentration, Wimbledon's young striker, Carl Cort, and Robbie Earle unable to punish their carelessness, Derby gave a sterling demonstration of their improvement by claiming a lead eight minutes after the interval.

Paulo Wanchope used his height to great advantage to head Aljosa Asanovic's cross into the path of the Italian Francesco Baiano and enable him to claim his eighth goal in as many Premiership outings.

Wimbledon, though, are nothing if not relentless and deserved to draw level with 20 minutes remaining after their captain, Vinnie Jones, struck a post and the referee, Uriah Rennie, rejected strong appeals for a penalty after a clumsy challenge by Christian Dailly on Efan Ekoku.

As it was, justice was per-

haps done when Dailly's attempted headed clearance under pressure from Cort ended up in his own net - an incident which sparked considerable debate afterwards about the identity of the scorer.

Cort, quite naturally for a 19-year-old in his first season, attempted to claim it as his sixth in eight matches and the defender Gary Rowett was credited for a long time before Smith named Dailly as the culprit.

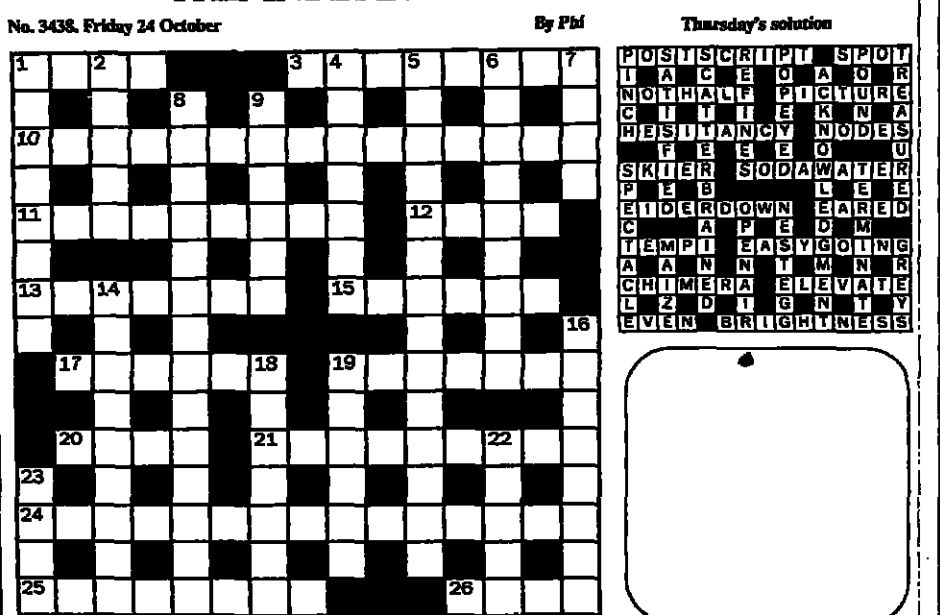
"I don't think Rowett was anywhere near it - I think Sam Hammam wants to give it to the young lad Cort because he wants to sell him for £5m," Smith mused. "It was the game we expected from Wimbledon. They are always a side who never give up. They have a game plan and stick to it well."

"Wimbledon deserved a point. We had a few players missing and the one team you do not want to play when things are like that is Wimbledon because they are very hard to pin against, particularly on your own ground."

Kinnear, whose side have now claimed successive victories at Newcastle and Aston Villa and grabbed a point against a Derby side unbeaten in five matches, stressed: "We would have been disappointed if we had not got a point and if we had had a bit more luck we would have got the maximum."

They will check on the defender Ben Thatcher (12 stitches in an ankle) and Carl Hughes - who was suffering from a virus at Pride Park - before attempting to address their home performances against Leeds on Saturday.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Regular shape made of two metals (4)
 - Left shop after breaking item of cookware (5-3)
 - One aims and shoots wide (9,6)
 - Plan something to interest the Porn Squad? (9)
 - Parliament regularly finishing early (4)
 - Take out smoothness from much of make-up used by woman (7)
 - Bird deterred from noise around a French Lake (6)
 - Reduced Cabinet had finished business (6)
 - Go off in disgust, following no clue being sorted out (7)
 - Bits of surgical wadding with blood attached? (4)
 - Political comment is done but needs editing (9)
 - Naturally suited for being carried off by a Lord, by the sound of it! (2,3,6,4)
 - Opening of piece of music includes it for a singer (8)
 - It's an island to you, on reflection (4)
 - Explosive device set up by a group of soldiers gets large rodent (8)
 - Example of South African insect being eaten by another (though not the tail) (5)
 - Guided round ring - cheetah, say, spotted (7)
 - Regular payments indicated in Government regulations? (8,6)
 - I conspire to wreck such accuracy (9)
 - Love being embraced by a little vile thing (4)
 - Stop the discussion and play a foreigner instead (4,3,7)
 - No main faults in embryonic membrane (6)
 - Lake wet us all in storm, right? (9)
 - Source of mild stimulant for 60s pop fan, we hear (5-3)
 - Beautiful girl "cut" boy after receiving one's scorn (7)
 - Force advanced, capturing capital of Uganda without hesitation (6)
 - Gold invested in plant making key component (5)
 - Attempt is cracked up (4)

MOTOR RACING

'Be fair' warning to drivers

With the drivers' championship to be decided in Sunday's final grand prix of the season in Jerez, Spain, on Sunday, a warning has been issued that anyone interfering with the result will face severe penalties.

Without pointing the finger specifically at Michael Schumacher, who leads the championship by one point from Jacques Villeneuve, Max Mosley, president of the sport's governing body, FIA, has warned all the drivers to be very careful about their actions on the track.

"It is going to be made very clear to everybody this time that we want a proper and fair contest," Mosley said. "At the drivers' briefing we will say that we

do not want anyone to interfere. It is not just a question of Schumacher and Villeneuve - any of the drivers could get involved. People have friends and anybody could theoretically interfere with the championship."

Schumacher, however, was furious at any suggestions that he would cheat his way to a third title. He was much criticised for a collision with Damon Hill in 1994, which secured the title for the German.

"I want to see a straight fight between Jacques and myself," he said. "I want to win the race and the championship, but I don't want to take it after an accident. I have won the title twice but I am still very hungry for another, believe me."

Villeneuve was also insisting that he would not want to win the championship through anything other than his ability. Any collision between himself and the German is likely to take both drivers out of contention, handing the title to Schumacher.

Villeneuve said: "I have nothing to gain by an accident. If I was going to do something like that I'd have done it in Suzuka when I had a nine-point lead, not now when I have a one-point deficit."

"When you are driving and you do something unsportsmanlike then you have to live with it. If you are capable of doing that good for you, but I would not be capable of living with it."

— Catherine Riley

CYCLING

Tour de France starts late to avoid World Cup

France's favourite sport has had to move its most famous event from its usual place in the calendar to accommodate football's World Cup finals. The Tour de France next summer will not start until early on 11 July, the day of the World Cup final, when the traditional opening time-trial will be ridden in Dublin. The Tour then continues into August.

The Republic of Ireland, whose football team does not yet know whether it will be at the World Cup, secured the right to stage the start of the Tour in recognition of the con-


tribution to the sport by its two most famous riders, Stephen Roche, the Tour winner in 1987, and Sean Kelly. The route will take competitors through the home towns of both, Dumdun and Carrick-on-Suir. After the second stage to Cork, the teams will cross the Channel to begin the third stage in Roscoff, on the western tip of France, on 14 July, Bastille Day.

The route, which totals about 3,850km (2,393 miles), takes the riders south to hit the Pyrenees on 21 July. After two

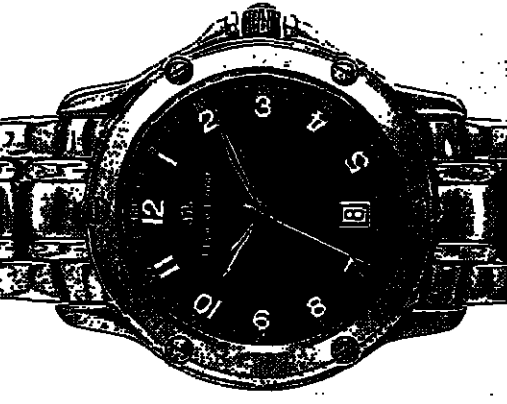
days in the mountains there is a rest day before the 12th stage and the start of a north-easterly trek to the Alps, with a stop on 28 July at Albertville, the main host of the 1992 Winter Olympics. The Tour ends with the traditional climax on the Champs Elysees on 2 August.

Jan Ullrich, who became the first German to win the race this year, is a strong favorite to win next year. He dominated the year, winning by the largest margin in more than 10 years.

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